

ORDINARY PEOPLE. EXTRAORDINARY GOD.



PARISH MAGAZINE FEBRUARY 2019 50p

DON'T Worry!



February. The poor relation of the calendar family, the least interesting, the runt of the litter. Even in a leap year, February is still the shortest month. It falls during the dreariest time of year, when we've had enough of winter and are looking for signs of spring, but poor February cannot provide them. The nights are still long, the mornings still dark and the days cold. Nothing much happens in February, even in the liturgical year. True, it does begin with the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, also known as Candlemas, and at St Leonard's we will hold our Christingle service on that first Sunday; but on the whole, Candlemas is not one of the prominent dates in the consciousness of most people.

The rest of the month is unremarkable; St Valentine is just one of numerous obscure saints, whose day is only observed by the Church as a commemoration at most. He is more eagerly embraced in the retail world, because there too, February is a bit of a void between the January Sales and Easter eggs. There really is nothing special about February.

But is this in fact a bad thing? I don't think it is. Our lives seem to be spent worrying about the next thing that's coming up. Even the liturgical calendar tends towards that attitude in February, calling the Sundays simply: 4th before Lent, 3rd before Lent, and so on. It's a useful indicator of where we are in the year, but at the same time seems to deny the validity of those Sundays in their own right, pointing us past them towards the next notable season.

This quiet time of February seems to me to be an opportunity for all of us to pause our looking forward, to stop thinking we should be planning and worrying about the next event on the calendar. We have a few weeks to live fully in the present; how often do we do that? So much of life is spent looking ahead in anticipation of something that's going to happen.

Through Advent we looked forward to Christmas, and to Christ's second coming. Christmas came, and we looked towards the New Year, a new start perhaps, or an uncertain future for our country. Lent is only a few weeks away, when we'll begin to look forward to Passiontide and Easter. But right now we have some breathing space for the whole of February, so let's make the most of this undemanding time.

I looked at the Gospel readings set by the Common Worship Lectionary for the remaining Sundays in February. Nothing dull or uninteresting about any of them! They consistently show us Christ's powerful presence in the everyday. In Luke 5:1-11, Jesus comes to the aid of the disheartened fishermen; their nets are filled with fish, and he tells them about their future mission, to fish for people. Luke 6:17-26 sees him heal the suffering multitudes who come flocking to him, before offering his followers blessings and advice. Finally, in Luke 8:22-25, when his disciples panic and think they will drown, he calms the storm, and tells them they should have had faith in him! On every occasion, Jesus provides practical help followed by wise guidance on how to go forward.

All these stories are metaphors for life; Jesus's presence is life-enhancing in all that happens, if we just look *for* him, and not *past* him. Let's use this month to stop and look around us, where we are, and see his power in the here and now, in the everyday. The next Big Thing will come in its own good time. Jesus wanted his followers to remember this, when in the Sermon on the Mount, he said:

'Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.' (Matthew 6:64, NRSV)

Have a peaceful and blessed month.

COVER PHOTO - At Messy Christmas Church, artfully disguised in donkey jacket and ears, Matt leads the procession to Bethlehem.

FEBRUARY DIARY

Saturday 2nd

8.30am Men's Breakfast in the Nicholls Room

SUNDAY 3rd: 5 before Lent

- 8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
- 9.45am All Age Eucharist with Christingle
- 6.30pm Evensong and sermon



- 10.30am Holy Communion at Wren House
- 7.30pm 'Medley' house group (Rosemary 515245)

Wednesday 6th

- 10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee
- 10.45am Holy Communion at Woodlands
- 11.30am Holy Communion at Cheviot

Thursday 7th

8.00am The Eucharist

Saturday 9th

10.30am-12.00 Coffee Morning at 12 Glen Avenue

SUNDAY 10th: 4 before Lent

- 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 9.45am Parish Eucharist and Junior Church
- 3.00pm Messy Church
- 6.30pm Evensong and sermon

Tuesday 12th

2.30pm Mothers' Union in the Nicholls Room

Wednesday 13th

10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee





Thursday 14th

- 8.00am Eucharist
- 2.30pm 'Constable' house group (Hugh 564577)

Saturday 16th

2.00pm Marriage Preparation at St Albright's, Stanway

SUNDAY 17th: 3 before Lent

- 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 9.45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church
- 6.30pm Evensong and sermon

Monday 18th

- 7.00pm Eucharist
- 7.45pm PCC in the Nicholls Room

Wednesday 20th

10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee

Thursday 21st

8.00am Eucharist

SUNDAY 24th: 2 before Lent

- 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 9.45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church
- 6.30pm Evensong and sermon

Wednesday 27th

10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee

Thursday 28th

8.00am Eucharist

Saturday 2nd March

8.30am Men's Breakfast in the Nicholls Room

SUNDAY 3rd March: Next before Lent

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9.45am: All Age Eucharist

6.30pm: Evensong and sermon



February

3 rd February	All Age Service
10 th February	Hold firmly to the message — Paul reminds the Corinthians of the gospel: that Christ died for our sins, was buried, and was raised on the third day. 1 Corinthians 15: 1-11
17 th February	For this life only? — Paul tells the Corinthians that if Christ is not raised from the dead, their faith is in vain, their sins remain, and their hope in Christ is futile. 1 Corinthians 15: 12-20
24 th February	Dead or alive? – Paul explores what resurrection might be like. Like a seed that appears to die before it grows into something new and wonderful. 1 Corinthians 15: 35-38, 42-50



Next Messy Church: Jonah 10th February 2019, 3-5pm

ST LEONARD'S NEEDS **YOU!**

If you've regularly attended worship at St Leonard's for more than six months, I'd like to warmly encourage you to join our electoral roll. If you're new - or relatively new - to St Leonard's it's especially important that you consider joining!

And, If you're already on the roll, you'll need to re-apply because this year it has to be completely revised. That means that if you don't act, you will disappear from the electoral roll.

Joining the electoral roll is very simple, please see the details on page 11. Being on the roll doesn't demand anything of you (don't worry!) It does ensure two important things, however:

- 1. You have a democratic voice in the running of St Leonard's. Those on the electoral roll can attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting where elections to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) can take place. If you'd like to be on the PCC, or feel you may in future, then you need to be on the electoral roll for at least six months. What does the PCC do? It works with me to promote the mission of the Church in the parish, is responsible for the financial affairs and the maintenance and care of Church buildings and property, and has a voice in the forms of service used by the Church.
- 2. It helps us at St Leonard's, and the diocese, understand who is involved with our Church and the parish. It's very useful to know where those who are committed to the Church live, and the roll gives us an indication of the number of such people.

So I warmly encourage you to join the electoral roll if you can.

With thanks,

THE CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL FULL REVISION 2019

Our Electoral Roll is to be completely revised before this year's Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 7th April.

If you are baptised, attend St Leonard's Church*, are aged sixteen or above, you are encouraged to enter your name on the new roll by completing and signing an application form.

If your name is on the existing roll you will still need to reapply; this is a full revision.

Forms and a collecting box will be available in church from 10th February. If you would like some help with obtaining, completing or returning your form, please contact Jo Burrows:

(electoralroll@stleonardslexden.org.uk), or ask one of our Churchwardens or a member of the Ministry or Pastoral Teams.

Please ensure that all forms are returned by Sunday 10th March.

You should be aware that information entered on your application form will be held on a computer database. It will be used only for the purposes of St Leonard's Church and will not be made available to outside organisations. We are required to display lists in church, which include names only.

Jo Burrows

Electoral Roll Officer

*If you are baptised and aged 16 or above, you are entitled to have your name on the roll if you either (a) live in the parish and are a member of Church of England or of a Church in communion with the Church of England, (b) live outside the parish but are such a member and have attended worship at St Leonard's regularly for six months, or (c) live outside the parish, are a member in good standing of a Church which subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity but which is not in communion with the Church of England, and are prepared to declare yourself a member of the Church of England having regularly attended public worship at St Leonard's for six months.

CEDRIC AND JEAN LOXLEY



I would like to thank everyone at St Leonard's for all their support during the last difficult 18 months. I thought those who were unable to be at the 9.45 service on Sunday 9th December might like to see the photograph which Siân very kindly took of Bishop Roger blessing the new lectern NSRV Bible which was given in memory of my dad Cedric Loxley.

As most of you will know Jean Loxley is now a resident in Woodland View, Turner Road. Anyone who knows Jean is welcome to visit her but unfortunately due to the nature of her illness, Alzheimer's, she will not know who you are. I would like to thank Margaret Smith who visits her regularly and, when she will accept it, takes her communion.

Judith



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CHRISTMAS CRIB SERVICE 2018



It's a Boy!



CANON PATRICK APPLEFORD



PRIEST, HYMN WRITER AND AUTHOR

Patrick Appleford, who died recently in his 90s will be known to folk at St. Leonard's through his hymns, but those from our church (quite a large number) who have completed the Diocesan Course in Christian Studies (the CCS) may not be aware that it was Patrick, in his role as Diocesan Director of Education, who was responsible for starting it over 30 years ago. As one of the first course tutors I was involved in it right from the start and I believe it is one of the best things that has happened in the diocese in my time (40 plus years). It has helped many people into a deeper knowledge and understanding of the scriptures, church history, liturgy etc. and helped to launch some of them into training as readers, pastoral assistants, evangelists, and, more recently, local lay ministers.

But for most people it will be for his hymns that Patrick will be remembered, especially that well-loved Communion hymn: Living Lord: 'Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us, you are one with us, Mary's Son...' Patrick said: "I wrote it for the youth club in Poplar" (where he was a curate). "I was trying to show Jesus was not a dead hero but a living Lord". Although this is his best-known hymn, most hymn books contain other hymns for which he wrote the words, and, in some cases, the tunes as well, e.g. Jesus humble was thy birth ... O Lord all the world belongs to you and you are always making all things new (popular in primary schools) Father all powerful thine is the kingdom (a very good hymn for Trinity Sunday)... and a magnificent hymn I have not sung in years: Jesus our Lord our king and our God......Lord we are called to follow you this you give strength to do.

In 2004 when I was chaplain of St. Peter's on the Wall at Bradwell and chair of the Pilgrimage committee, we celebrated the 1450th anniversary of St. Cedd's arrival at Bradwell. For the special order of service we thought it appropriate to use a hymn by Patrick which he had written for the opening of the Asheldham youth church in 1976: *This house of God built to withstand the winter weather*... About a month before the Pilgrimage I was sitting next to Patrick at a canons' garden party (as one does!) I mentioned we were using his hymn for the Pilgrimage service

and he spontaneously offered to write a special verse, which he did: *This holy day celebrates Cedd's courageous coming, sharing his faith, leading new friends in prayer and praise, Dear God your love draws us together, saints and sinners, one joyful throng, glad to praise you all our days.*

I, for one, will always thank God for Patrick's enduring influence through his hymns and in the CCS.

Hugh Beavan

THANK YOU FROM THE CAKE STALL

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR 2018



A very belated - but still sincere - "Thank you" to everyone who contributed, in any way, to make the Cake Stall a huge success again in December!

Once again, you didn't fail us — we had cakes galore — small ones, big ones, round ones, square ones, of all different varieties and they sold, well, like hot cakes! We also saw more bread and savoury items, together with the usual array of delicious jams and chutneys — all ready for the Christmas festivities!

So, on behalf of The Cake Stall Team, a big "Thank You" to everyone for your support!

PS: I should also like to take this opportunity to thank all my St Leonard's friends for your endless and continuing good wishes for my speedy recovery: to those of you, including our lovely Priest-in-Charge, who visited me in hospital and for the cards and gifts that have helped so much to keep my spirits up! Recovery is bound to be slow but improvements are now tangible – unfortunately, being patient whilst time passes is my nemesis!

Mary Hanmer

LAY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION



The list of those members of the congregation who are authorised to administer the bread and wine at Holy Communion has recently been updated. The current certificate is shown opposite, and is also displayed in the vestry.

We are greatly blessed by the ministry of these people, and their contribution to the life of St Leonard's.



NEWHYTHE HAMPERS

Many thanks to everyone for all their help in making up 12 hampers for the parents and babies at Newhythe. About 10 people stayed behind after Compline on the Wednesday before Christmas to make up the hampers, so that they could be delivered in time for the Newhythe Christmas party on the Friday.

Each flat received a hamper full to bursting with gifts for the baby and parents, plus a 'Santa sack' containing larger items such as packs of nappies. So thank you once again, however you contributed, whether by donating, prayers, making up the hampers, or delivering them.

Judith



First of all, a big thank you to all who have arranged or donated flowers throughout the course of 2018. I know from the comments which I have received that they have been much appreciated.

Now is the time to encourage arrangers and donors alike to fill in the spaces on the new Rota which is now on the Notice board. We always welcome new arrangers and even if you have little or no experience there are always those who can give you help, guidance and encouragement.

For the information of those who are newer at St. Leonard's, we operate a scheme whereby you may donate flowers for a special reason, such as to celebrate a birthday or anniversary or some other significant event, or in memory of a loved one. If you would like to do this, please fill in your name on the rota on a suitable date and then speak to me so that I know if you intend to arrange the flowers yourself or require someone to do that for you. In the latter case we suggest a donation of approximately £20/£25, which should be given to me about 2-3 weeks in advance. (Please note that I am asking you to give ME your telephone number, rather than putting it on the rota).

For regular arrangers, please try to be available for Easter, arranging on Sat 20th April, Harvest, arranging on Saturday 5th October and Christmas (probably Sat 21st December).

Many thanks,

Peter Hearsum

MOUSE TAILS



After Christmas things settled down again to everyday living, much the same as with human families. Grandpa was being very quiet, which worried his family because he was getting on in years and they were concerned that maybe he was not feeling too well, but hadn't told them because he wouldn't want to spoil their Christmas celebrations.

After a week or so Rupert and Molly's Mum sat down with her father and asked him what the problem was. Grandpa thought for a moment and could see the worry and concern etched on his daughter's face. "I'm not ill dear," was the first thing he said and could see her relaxing immediately. I've been thinking about Christmas Day and that wonderful gift of those gorgeous twins that young Daisy and Pablo had. I'm so very lucky to be here living among my family; you and all of my children and grandchildren, it is indeed a gift from God that this should be so but I've been thinking about Pablo's Mother and Father. They don't even know that he is alive and well, married to the lovely Daisy and a proud father to the twins and I feel there must be some way that we can let them know. I realise that it's going to be a tall order but there must be a way to communicate with them.



Mum got quite tearful as she thought how she would feel if one of her beloved children had disappeared and she didn't know where they were or even if they would be alive. It just didn't bear thinking about so she gave Grandpa a big hug and suggested that they had a family get together to see what ideas they could come up with.

Primed by Mum, all the family got together up at the Hall, because the Halls were part of their extended family as, of course, were Daisy and Pablo. Grandpa talked to them about his feelings and sadness for Pablo's parents and asked for them to all put their thinking caps on to see what ideas they could come up with. Carol, the youngest Under Stairs mouse started to cry and when Grandpa took her on his knee and asked why she was crying she sobbed out that she didn't have a thinking cap but so

wanted to help! All of the mice started to laugh and laugh until the tears ran down their faces! Grandpa kindly explained in simple terms what they meant, then she started to chuckle too!

Serious again, they put their minds to the problem; many ideas were tossed back and forth until Rupert suddenly asked: "Do you remember how Mr Blackbird helped us to rescue Jack Straw?" The group went silent until Grandpa asked if blackbirds migrated to Spain in winter. Nobody knew but vowed to talk to him the next day. "That's all very well," said Mum, "but how could he take a message all that way?" Pablo said: "If the bird is willing, I can tell him exactly where my home was in Alfaro, Spain and maybe he would just tell them our news." They all agreed that this was the best idea and Grandpa would go out early to talk to Blackie and see what he had to say.

Bright and early next morning he and Rupert were sitting under Blackie's tree and seeing him, called out that the mice needed his help. Looking around carefully first, Blackie flew down to the lowest branch and after exchanging season's greetings Grandpa told him of their dilemma. Blackie twittered about a bit on his branch then told Grandpa that he and the missus never left the country. Within seconds, Mrs Blackie joined



them and said: "We don't, but my friend Mrs Robin does! Yes, every year she goes back to the sun; shall I go and call her?" "Yes please," said Grandpa. Soon they heard a little rustle in the leaves and Mrs Robin appeared. "So," she said bossily, "what do you want, getting me out of my nice warm nest this early?"

Grandpa realised that this was a bird 'with attitude' and that maybe flattery would go a long way! He explained the problem and said that it seemed that she was the only bird in the country that could help them. Mrs. Robin fluffed out her feathers and preened a bit. "It might be possible," she said. "Where in Spain is the home of these mice because I have a set route and I cannot deviate from it, also do not expect me to carry anything; it's a hard enough journey without handicaps." Grandpa told her that they were Maria and Christos and lived behind the Palacious Hotel in Alfaro, Northern Spain. "Well," declared Mrs Robin,

they are very lucky; that is exactly where my first stop is before flying south. What is the message?" Grandpa told her just to say that Pablo was alive and well, married to Daisy and was the proud father of twins, Eva Maria and Noel Christos and he'd never forget them. Rupert asked if she would be able to remember all that and be able to speak their language. Fixing Rupert with a haughty look she told him that being a European Robin she could tweet and twitter in many languages!

The mice were thrilled and thanked her profusely. "I will, of course, have to build my strength up in the next few days but hope to leave at the weekend." Blackie asked if she had enough food, Grandpa took the hint

and offered a stash of choice berries if she'd like them. "Why not?" she said, "They may help." The mice rushed back to the others and told them the good news. Pablo offered to take the berries personally so he could thank her himself and ask when she usually returned to Lexden. It wouldn't



be till the Spring, provided she made the journey safely each way.

All of the mouse community were thrilled with their success and praised Grandpa for being such a lovely, caring mouse to think of it. Grandpa said a special prayer to ask God to watch over and protect their Robin messenger on her journey. **CT**

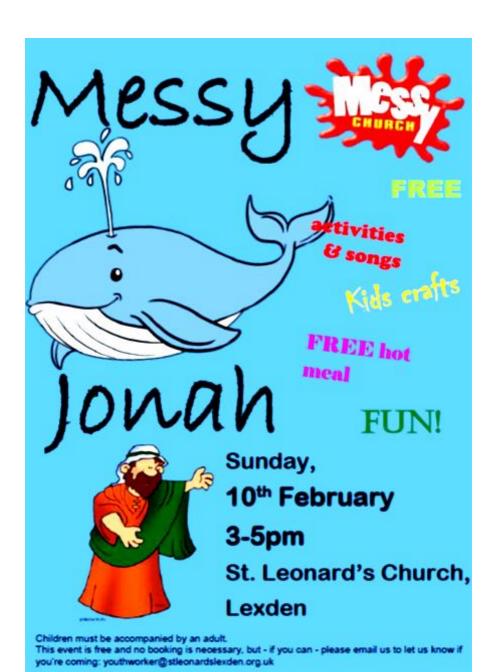
Note: research showed that a small percentage of female European Robins migrate to southern climates in winter; their flight paths include Alfaro in northern Spain before they fly on to southern countries; Spain, Portugal and even Morocco. Look it up - it's quite fascinating. **CT**

SUMMER FETE 2019

Advance notice for your diaries -

St Leonard's Summer Fete will be on **Saturday 22nd June**. Don't miss it!





A TAXING DAY FOR JESUS

(Matthew 17:24-27)

I read a remarkable story the other day; remarkable in the sense that I couldn't recollect ever hearing of it before. It just goes to show how little I know about the Gospels. This unusual story appears in Matthew. I recount it for you, in case, like for me, it doesn't ring a bell.

The story starts with a tax collector; that perhaps is not so strange since, as we know, Matthew himself was in the tax business. This particular collector wanted to know from Peter if his teacher, Jesus, paid the two-drachma temple tax. This prompted an immediate response from Peter: "Yes, he does."

Jesus seems to have overheard what was spoken because he asked Peter: "From whom do the kings of earth collect duty and taxes, from their own children or others?" "From others," Peter replies.

Do you know what now follows? Well, it rather astonished me when I read it, The most strange and extraordinary miracle happens. Jesus, not wishing to offend, decides to pay the tax. However, Jesus and Peter didn't have a single drachma between them, so Peter, at Jesus's suggestion, goes down to the lake and casts out his line to catch a fish. Jesus says to Peter: "Take the first fish you catch, open its mouth and there you will find a four drachma piece. Take it and give it to them for your tax and mine."

I wonder, have you heard that story before? I hadn't and I found it most miraculous. But then we shouldn't be too surprised, because on our weekly 'hand out' we have written:

Ordinary people - Extraordinary God.

6

Tony Cross



LEXDEN WAR MEMORIAL CROSS

FIRST WORLD WAR DEATHS

FEBRUARY 1919

The final two WW1 names recorded on our War Memorial, bringing the total to 38, both died in February 1919, three months after the Armistice, but they died in widely separated locations.

Gunner George Percival of the Royal Field Artillery died in Ambala (spelt Umbala on the Memorial) Cantonment, India on 5th February 1919 aged 38, presumably as a result of illness, and he is buried in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission plot of Ambala Cantonment Cemetery located on Jagadrhi Road in Ambala which is still a prominent military base of today's Indian Army. This cemetery contains 66 British graves all from the First World War and George Percival is one of 10 from the Royal Field Artillery.

Ambala lies about 200 kms north, north west of Delhi on the Grand Trunk Road which before Partition ran for 2700 kms all the way from Chittagong, now in Bangladesh to Kabul in Afghanistan. It also has a main railway junction, on of the busiest in India. George was the son of Charles and Esther Percival and the husband of Janet Mary Percival of 9 King Coel Road on the western edge of Lexden Parish.

Less than a fortnight later Corporal Evelyn Beaumont of the Royal Army Pay Corps died in Colchester from Pneumonia following Influenza on 18th February 1919 aged 32. Corporal Beaumont of Nelson Road, son of Robert Beaumont, left a widow, who along with his father, mother and two sisters, was unable to attend the funeral due to illness and in civilian life was employed by a local building contractor, Stanford & Co.

A choral funeral service took place at St Leonard's Church, Lexden conducted by the Rector, Revd T. Stamford Raffles assisted by Revd E. Monck-Mason, Rector of Holy Trinity, Colchester and was attended by a large congregation including representatives of The Blackwater Lodge of Freemasons, the Army and his civilian employer. *Continued on p39*

(Continued from p37)

Corporal Beaumont is buried in Lexden Churchyard and white gloves and sprigs of mimosa were dropped into his grave by the Masonic mourners. In the absence of his widow and parents the roles of chief mourners were filled by Captain and Mrs Stanley Beaumont, brother and sister-in-law. He therefore became the second of those listed on the Memorial to be buried in the Churchyard, the other being Captain Morton who died in 1915.

The Influenza outbreaks world wide coinciding with the close of the War caused millions of deaths and it is perhaps not surprising that the final Great War death recorded on our Memorial resulted from influenza rather than wounds sustained in battle.

In concluding this series of articles, it seems appropriate to list together all the Lexden men who died in the War –

John Atkinson Alfred Baines **Evelyn Beaumont** Frederick Bilner Alfred Clayden Charles Dawes George Dyer Herbert Eade Frederick Everett **Edgar Gardner Roderick Gray** Frank Greaves Frederick Guyott **Edward Hallum** Frederick Hilliard William Hilliard Arthur Jarrett Cecil Keeping Henry Keigwin

Joseph Lanagan Charles Mann Malcolm Mann Vernon Merchant **Edward Mills** Cecil Morton William Moss Bertie Munson **Ernest Munson** Albert Nevard William Nevard George Percival William Ponder Ernest Ruck-Keene Guy St. Georges Harold Soames

Charles King

W. Stork

Thomas Thurlow

Prepared by Tom Scrimgeour