



# THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST LEONARD, LEXDEN

ORDINARY PEOPLE. EXTRAORDINARY GOD.



## PARISH MAGAZINE

SEPTEMBER 2019 50p



# So Many Blessings!

For the next two or three months, the magazine will be produced in a reduced form, but please bear with it, as I am delighted to report that a new editor has come forward and will be taking over later this year. It has been a wrench for me to give up the editorship after so many years, but as so often with changes, I feel confident that this one will bring great benefits. The new editor has experience and skills which I do not possess, and will bring a fresh approach, new ideas and new energy. It doesn't do to have the same person doing the same job indefinitely, and I have a new role too, which needs my full commitment.

We naturally tend to cling to the familiar, and find new developments unsettling, but change is inevitable, and often desirable and necessary, because life itself doesn't remain static; people grow older, young people grow to maturity, circumstances change; technology develops in ways we never imagined, and we are part of a dynamic and evolving world. Whether we realise it or not, all of us are changing - as individuals, physically and intellectually, and in our context and relationship with those around us. Last year I was ordained as a deacon, and this year as a priest; I have changed, and continue to change, in ways I would never have envisaged five years ago.

This month we celebrate as another two longstanding members of St Leonard's congregation are ordained as deacons. Meanwhile in recent years others have found and followed their calling to various lay ministries. In all these vocations, as their relationship with God has matured and developed, they have discerned new ways in which they are called to follow Christ's commandment to love God, and love their neighbour. Wonderful riches of talent and service have emerged from among us, and continue to do so.

It's now just a year since we welcomed the arrival of Matt to be our Priest-in-Charge. He and his family have brought new joys, commitment and inspiration to St Leonard's. This month a new youth worker starts her year volunteering with us. We have been so blessed with the wonderful ministry of these young people over the years, each bringing their own unique personality and gifts with such faith and courage, which at such a young age, away from home, is truly inspiring.

Being 'part of the action' is so much more rewarding than watching others around us and feeling uninvolved, or unnecessary. We are, as St Paul tells us, one body, dependent on all the component parts in order to function. (*Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12.*) Everyone has a contribution to make, and every contribution is precious, enhancing the whole and shaping its identity. Our united manifold perspectives and skills give us strength and adaptability in a demanding world. All of us have something to offer: Ministry takes numerous and diverse forms, whether it's cleaning the church, serving at the altar, singing in the choir, or simply phoning someone housebound for a chat.

As life progresses, it brings new adjustments and innovations, and sometimes means relinquishing things we've enjoyed and valued in the past; but when we embrace the new, we don't lose the old, because it forms part of our history, and makes us what we are. We are able to draw on and apply our past experience in the present situation, to recognise and value the gifts in others and in ourselves, and to benefit from each other's wisdom and perspectives, so that we continue to be a living, dynamic and relevant Church. And in all this, we have one person who is constant and unchanging, but who is always relevant and up to date, and for ever will be. Jesus himself said he came not to abolish the old ways, but to fulfil and build on them. He is the Church's one foundation, the Word in whom we can trust. Jesus continues to love, guide and support us all in our diverse but interdependent ministries, through all life's times and changes, as long as we keep him in our sight.

Have a blessed month.



# SEPTEMBER DIARY

## **SUNDAY 1<sup>st</sup> September Trinity 11**

**8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**9.45am ALL AGE EUCHARIST**

**6.30pm Joint Summer Evensong at St Mary's, Wivenhoe**

## **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup>**

10.00am Holy Communion at Wren House

7.30pm 'Medley' house group (Rosemary 515245)

## **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup>**

10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee

10.45 Holy Communion at Woodlands

11.30 Holy Communion at Cheviot

## **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup>**

8.00am Eucharist

## **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>**

8.30am Men's Breakfast in the Nicholls room

## **SUNDAY 8<sup>th</sup> Trinity 12**

**8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**9.45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church**

**6.30pm Evensong and sermon**

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

7.00pm Eucharist

7.45pm PCC meeting in the Nicholls Room

## **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup>**

2.30pm Mothers' Union in the Nicholls room

## **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup>**

10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>

8.00am Eucharist

2.30pm 'Constable' house group (Hugh 564577)

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup>

10.00am Ordination of Jacquie Messinger and Maggie Whiteman at Chelmsford Cathedral

2.00pm Wedding of James Phipps-Carter and Jessica Richardson

**SUNDAY 15<sup>th</sup> Trinity 13**

**8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**9.45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church**

**6.30pm Evensong and sermon**

Monday 16<sup>th</sup>

11.00am Holy Communion at Hill House

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup>

10.00 Eucharist followed by coffee

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>

8.00am Eucharist

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>

8.30am Women's Breakfast in the Nicholls room

**SUNDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> Trinity 14**

**8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**9.45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church**

**3.00pm Messy Church**

**6.30pm EUCHARIST for WHOLENESS and HEALING**

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup>

10.00 Eucharist followed by coffee

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup>

8.00am Eucharist

**SUNDAY 29th Trinity 15, St Michael and All Angels**

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

**9.45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church**

**3.30pm OMG+**

**6.30pm Evensong and sermon**

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October**

**2.30pm Lexden Ladies in the Nicholls room**

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October**

**8.30am Men's Breakfast in the Nicholl's room**

**SUNDAY 6<sup>th</sup> October Trinity 16 HARVEST FESTIVAL**

**8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**9.45am ALL AGE EUCHARIST**

**6.30pm Evensong and sermon**

**COVER PHOTO**

David, our youth worker, playing his first ever game of cricket at the parish picnic on his last Sunday with us. He was very good!



# September

<b>1<sup>st</sup> September</b>	<b>All-Age Service</b>
<b>8<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<p><b>One of the family</b> – Paul sends Onesimus, a runaway slave, back to his former master with an appeal that he is forgiven, freed, and welcomed into the family as a ‘beloved brother’.</p> <p><i>Philemon 1-21</i></p>
<b>15<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<p><b>Everyone matters</b> –Jesus tells two parables that explore themes of loss. <i>Luke 15. 1-10</i></p>
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> September</b>	<p><b>Dodgy dealings</b> –Jesus tells one of his most challenging parables. The disciples are invited to reflect on how best to live in the real world.</p> <p><i>Luke 16. 1-13</i></p>
<b>29<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<p><b>Feasting and famished</b> –Jesus tells a parable about an unnamed rich man and a poor man called Lazarus. Jesus challenges his hearers not to neglect the demands of justice in this life.</p> <p><i>Luke 16. 19-31</i></p>



**Messy Church**

**22<sup>nd</sup> September, 3-5pm**



# MOUSE TAILS

It was time for the Church mice's traditional summer holiday with their Woods relatives, Rupert and Molly were of course, very excited and had been packing (and repacking) their belongings for days. This year Pablo, Daisy and their twins were to accompany them too and Daisy looked forward to seeing her family again. It would be an especially large gathering as cousin Fern was to marry her sweetheart, Moss, Grandad would conduct the wedding. Although they didn't have a proper Church like St. Leonards there was a special place where the wood mice held their prayer meetings.

Out came the old sleigh, checked and repaired, and the family loaded it with their belongings Daisy's twins were to ride on the sleigh as they were still very young and wouldn't be able to scamper through the rabbit warrens leading to the Woods. Rupert wondered if they would meet up with Fluffy the duckling that they had returned to its mother the last time they went to the Woods, Dad said that it would probably be huge by now and wouldn't remember them.

An eager and excited group set off on their trip, once underground they sang (squeaked) their favourite songs and in no time at all they were emerging into the wood. Cousin Ronnie Wood had been detailed to look out for them and lead them to the family nest.

The family all greeted each other and the Mums sorted out where they would be nesting whilst the Dads enjoyed a glass of beer, even Rupert was given a small beer and he felt very grown up. Molly went with the Mums and Daisy and were catching up on the wedding plans.

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As the families gathered to catch up on their news and admire the alterations that the Woods had made to their home near the stream, the youngsters scampered off to rediscover their favourite haunts and were thrilled to see that the raft they had made years ago was still in use.

On the day of the wedding many more mice started arriving to see the couple married, it was an excited group, at least 30 mice all chatting away at once many of which the Church mice were meeting for the first time. Garlands of greenery and wild flowers decorated the arch of the Meeting Place and Fern looked very pretty with ribbons and flowers tied around her neck and tail whilst Moss looked very sleek and handsome (though somewhat nervous), two young female cousins were bridesmaids and carried posies of wild flowers. Grandpa conducted the simple Service and the mice sang their favourite hymns.

After the Service, everyone got into the feasting which was splendid, featuring many new tastes for them all and the youngsters tore about playing their favourite games.

It was a very long but happy day and as Grandpa said, they were on holiday and didn't need to be up early the next day they could all just relax and enjoy the peace of the Woods.

**CT**



## **Run to Newcastle for Huntington's!**

Hi I'm Matt Saines. I would like to share with you an amazing project organised by a group of friends to raise awareness and funds for Huntington's disease.

You may remember I was part of the acolyte team and went on to be Crucifer. I was a member of SLYC (St Leonard's Youth Club). I played the clarinet in the music group and was also a keen founder member of second Lexden Beavers, Cubs and Scouts.

I am now 27 and since leaving Newcastle University I have been diagnosed with this hereditary, neurological illness which affects me both physically and mentally.

Masterminded by my good friend Jack Simpson, a group of school and sixth form college friends will be running a 275 mile relay from Colchester to Saint James' Park in Newcastle (home of my favourite football team, Newcastle United) The run will take place from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> September. I will be travelling in the support van with the team of six friends who will be running every day. I plan to walk the last 5 miles with my supportive friends and family.

I would be very happy if you feel able to support us.

Thank you so much. <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/Team/Run4Hun>,



## PUMP AWAY

The late Dr. Ursula Hopegood was a remarkable person with a remarkable family. Apart from her medical expertise she graced the alto line in the church choir of St. Andrew's, Earls Colne for many years. Her husband, Andy, was an oyster farmer in the Colne estuary. Her brother was the Bishop of St. Helena. In her later years, as dementia got a hold, she never lost her ability to sing and needed little encouragement to do so. It was as the resident doctor at the blood donor session at Earls Colne that many will remember her. She would insert the needle, check that there was a good flow and that you were squeezing periodically on a small wooden bar provided. It was then that she would utter the words that would become her call sign, 'Pump away!' This exhortation, familiar enough to the regulars, might well have been disconcerting to a first time donor. Who would tell you when to stop?

Dr. Hopegood was one of the last of her kind. To perform the skilled task of inserting the needle trained doctors were first replaced by trained nurses and very soon by trained members of the regular team. I jested to the reception nurse on one occasion that nothing ever stayed the same; there were always changes. Soon they would be giving us the kit and telling us to get on with it.

'Oh, we won't do that', she replied, rising to the banter, 'We'll post it to you'.

'That's no good', I protested. 'I won't get my cup of tea'.

'Then we'll throw in a tea bag'.

In the mid 80s I received an extraordinary letter purporting to come from NHS Blood asking me if I would like to join something called the Baby Blood Panel. I was naturally suspicious of this letter although we were still years away from a technology that has spawned scamming and phishing and fostered a natural distrust of everything that appears  
*continued on p21*

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in our inbox. How would anyone think that after a life time of drinking real ale and wine I could possibly have blood suitable for babies? Thirty years on, the nurse holds up a bag of burgundy coloured liquid, that was me just minutes before, and shows me a large letter 'N' for 'neo-natal' on the label. In the early days baby blood was collected in two centres: Brentwood and Liverpool. They needed six pints from each and each pint could benefit four infants. I was required to attend at the Brentwood centre for this purpose. Changes in blood distribution mean that I can now donate anywhere and a text message will tell me if my pint of blood has gone to Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children, or, less glamorously, into the general pot if not required for babies.

Further changes in the operating theatre have meant that many operations have become less intrusive and the demand for blood and blood products such as platelets has decreased. Paradoxically, the need for donors has not. I once heard, but have not verified, that only 6% of the eligible population give blood. If you are not a donor but are thinking of becoming one, don't be tempted by the prospect of a cup of tea. First time donors are taken purposefully to the tea table and a red card placed in front of them. It may be a champagne moment for you but it's orange squash as far as they are concerned. It's just that they just want to be sure you are ok first time round. You went in thinking you were doing something noble and ended up being shown the red card, but it is a red card of appreciation; and there will be tea next time - unless you turn out to be a serial fainter, of course.

Robin Greatorex.

## **A Sense of Awe**

I have always been impressed by the sheer variety of places of Christian worship in this country, from the great cathedrals to the humblest of parish churches. In the August parish magazine Hugh Beavan wrote about the sense of awe that you can experience when you go into a cathedral, and it is of course also true that an apparently ordinary church can provoke its own sense of awe, reminding you how small and insignificant you are in the scheme of things. It is one such church that I am writing about in this article.

In July of this year I visited the church in the small village of Lastingham, in the North York moors a few miles from the town of Pickering. The whole building is very fine, dating from the twelfth century, but its most striking feature is its crypt, reached by steps that go down from the very centre of the nave. The crypt is quite extensive, with a nave and two aisles. There is impressive Norman architecture in its arches and pillars. The pillars are short and the ceiling is low, giving the crypt an almost cell-like quality. It is an atmospheric, holy place. On a shelf at the back there is an extract from a poem chiding the visitor who goes to the church out of curiosity rather than to pray.

As well as absorbing the atmosphere of the crypt, I was interested to learn that the church has an Essex connection. It is built on the site of a monastery that was founded in AD 654 by St Cedd, and there is a red light in the church to mark the place where the saint's body was buried. This is the same St Cedd who was sent as a missionary to the East Saxons in Essex and who established the church at Bradwell-on-Sea.

**Colin Hetherington**

# EIGHT ASH GREEN CARPET BOWLS CLUB

We have been playing at St Leonards Church Hall since May 2011 and appreciate the facilities that are provided and the amount of room we have for playing. We meet on Monday evenings between 7.00 and 9.15 pm (not on Bank Holidays) and would like to welcome some new members to join the club.

No experience or equipment is needed and we are a friendly bunch with some accomplished players who would be only too pleased to share their knowledge.

If you would like to join us one Monday, please ring Mrs Brenda Thomas on 01206 824410, speak to Frank Wielobob at church or email him at [frankw@stleonardslexden.org.uk](mailto:frankw@stleonardslexden.org.uk).

We look forward to seeing you.

## MAGAZINE DEADLINE

Final day for items for the OCTOBER edition:

**SUNDAY 15<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  
and limit text to 500-600 words maximum.  
Longer articles may be edited. Thank you