



# THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST LEONARD, LEXDEN

ORDINARY PEOPLE. EXTRAORDINARY GOD.



PARISH MAGAZINE

OCTOBER 2019

50p



## Brexit, the dangers of cannibalism, and the fruits of the spirit.

The Apostle Paul once warned, ‘If you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.’ Sadly, in contemporary Britain cannibalism seems back in fashion. I don’t mean *literal* cannibalism, of course, but a tendency to regard others not as humans, but as meat.

Amid the political crises around Brexit, we’ve often been encouraged to view each other as meat. And I doubt I’m alone in feeling tenderised by the relentless blows of confident – but contradictory – claims. The deep social divisions that have appeared have gifted us the opportunity to reacquaint ourselves with the delicious possibilities of taking a little nibble out of each other here, and a bite out of one another there.

Society has been split into opposing flavours so that the feasting can begin. We’re regularly told who we should be biting, and who will chomp us. Young versus old, rich versus poor, London versus the North, metropolitan liberals versus economic libertarians, urban versus rural, Scotland versus England, class versus class, ethnic group versus ethnic group. The table is laid. Shall we tuck in?!

Paul had a meaty phrase for this tendency to figurative cannibalism: ‘works of the flesh’. Among them he lists some very popular bad habits: ‘enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, envy’. Think of them as a range of cutlery spread in front of us to help us feast.

It’s against all this that Paul wrote: ‘if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.’ The damage we do to one another, the damage done to relationships between groups, is only the beginning of a slow death. Because, of course, meat is only meat

once the body is no more. If we treat other people and groups in this way then, frankly, we treat the social body of Britain as if it is dead already. Yet even now there is great hope: hope that comes from recognising that each of us is called to share in God's work of healing and reconciliation. Instead of the works of the flesh, we have the fruits of the spirit: 'love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.' Such fruits build up individuals and communities: they nourish the body, and they can heal.

Paul was not, of course, trying to rid the early churches of difference – he was trying to encourage all nations and backgrounds into the body of Christ. To him, difference need not threaten the community: because 'all of you are one in Christ Jesus.' Being in Christ Jesus means receiving the fruits of the Spirit: 'Patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control' which breathe life into relationships and communities, and which we must each practice now for the sake of all those around us.

When we encounter those with whom we profoundly disagree, we should respond with patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. This isn't a tolerance that leaves wounds undressed and festering, but a way of refusing to demean the other while challenging them if they're wrong. If we really try to understand those we disagree with, sitting with them, listening with patience and humility, arguing generously and gently, looking for any good in their position, exercising self-control when confrontation arises, and trying to persuade in a manner that shows that we too are at least open to the *possibility* of persuasion ourselves – well, then we are acting in love, in a manner that can establish peace.

Whatever the coming months bring, let's reject cannibalism and choose the path to reconciliation and community that runs through patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Matt'. The letters are cursive and fluid, with a large 'M' and a long, sweeping tail on the 't'.

# OCTOBER DIARY

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

10.00am Holy Communion at Wren House

2.30pm Lexden Ladies in the Nicholls Room

7.30pm 'Medley' house group (Rosemary 515245)

## Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup>

10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee

10.45 Holy Communion at Woodlands

11.30 Harvest Holy Communion at Cheviot

## Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup>

8.00am Eucharist

## Saturday 5<sup>th</sup>

8.30am Men's Breakfast in the Nicholls Room

10.30am - 5.00pm Harvest - church open for visitors

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

**8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**9.45am ALL AGE EUCHARIST with offering of gifts for Foodbank**

**6.30pm Evensong and Sermon**

## Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup>

2.30pm Mothers' Union service in Church followed by meeting

## Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup>

10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee

## Thursday 10<sup>th</sup>

8.00am Eucharist

### **COVER PHOTO**

Jess and James had lovely weather - and bubbles - for their wedding in September.

**SUNDAY 13<sup>th</sup> Trinity 17**

**8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**9.45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church**

**6.30pm Evensong and Sermon**

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup>**

10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup>**

8.00am Eucharist

2.30pm 'Constable' house group (Hugh 564577)

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup>**

8.30am Women's Breakfast in the Nicholls Room

**SUNDAY 20<sup>th</sup> Trinity 18**

**8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**9.45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church**

**6.30pm Evensong and Sermon**

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup>**

11.00am Holy Communion at Hill House

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup>**

10.00 Eucharist followed by coffee

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup>**

8.00am Eucharist

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup>**

12.30pm Friendship Lunch in Church

**SUNDAY 27<sup>th</sup> Trinity 19**

**8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**9.45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church**

**6.30pm EUCHARIST for WHOLENESS and HEALING**

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup>

10.00 Eucharist followed by coffee

Thursday 31<sup>st</sup>

8.00am Eucharist

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November

8.30am Men's Breakfast in the Nicholls Room

**SUNDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> November All Saints**

**8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**9.45am ALL AGE EUCHARIST**

**6.30pm Annual Memorial Service**

## Christmas Bazaar 2019

**Saturday 7th December**

Planning is in hand for the Christmas Bazaar. Further details will appear in the November magazine. In the meantime, if you can offer help please contact –

**Tom and Kathleen Scrimgeour on 574797**



### ***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 – no toothpaste or sweets please. The donation towards processing and transport is £5.00 to be put in the box or paid on line.

The last date for delivery of filled boxes is **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November**.

**Thank you**

**Tom and Kathleen Scrimgeour on 574797**



# October

6 <sup>th</sup> October	<b>All Age Eucharist Harvest Celebration</b>
13 <sup>th</sup> October	<b>With no agenda</b> – exploring the simplicity of God’s healing grace. <i>Luke 17. 11-19</i>
20 <sup>th</sup> October	<b>What are you fighting for?</b> – exploring divine justice and persistence. <i>Luke 18. 1-9</i>
27 <sup>th</sup> October	<b>It’s not a competition</b> – challenging complacency; asking for God’s mercy. <i>Luke 18. 9-14</i>

A big WELCOME to Thea who joins us as Youth Worker this year!

A huge THANK YOU to David for his fantastic work in all areas of youth ministry and we wish him the very best with his studies as he begins his Theology course this autumn.

# Thank You

To all those who came to see me and sent cards and flowers during my recent stay in hospital. I was overwhelmed by your kindness and I felt surrounded by love - the power of prayer was tangible and so uplifting. I am so thankful for my recovery and I feel a little stronger every day. I hope to be back in church quite soon

*With my love in Christ*  
**Jean Holden**

A sincere thank you for your prayers and incredible support over the summer. I was humbled by the cards and gifts, and even more so by the prayers, from which we benefitted greatly. Though I am now easing myself back into duty, my mobility and ability to drive will be affected for another few months.

**Matt**

## LEXDEN LADIES

A good crowd of Ladies and friends met on a beautiful afternoon at the end of August for our Tea Party in Christine and Brian's lovely garden. We enjoyed delicious cakes and plenty of conversation! Half the proceeds have been sent to the British Heart Foundation.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 1st October at 2.30pm in the Nicholls room. Jacquie Messenger, one of our new deacons, will be our speaker. Do come and hear her. Admission £2. All welcome.

**Margaret**  
**Tel: 579629**





# MOUSE TAILS

The Church mice along with Pablo, Daisy and their twins, Maria and Alberto were still on their annual holiday with the Woods family.

After the excitement of the wedding everyone relaxed more. Of course, they still had to forage for food and keep their nests clean and tidy, the Mums exchanged recipe ideas and gave helpful tips to the newly-weds.

Rupert and Molly loved this time spent in the woods and now that they were older were given more freedom although they were STILL reminded every time about the dangers of the other wild life, Young Alberto and Maria absolutely idolised Rupert and Molly and followed them around like little shadows! Grandpa was amused to hear Rupert warning the youngsters about the dangers and thought he sounded just like himself.

They loved the little raft that, with a few repairs, was still serviceable and spent many happy hours paddling along the little creek and spotting the Minnows. On another day they played at Noah's Ark which Molly told them all about, like all youngsters their imagination ran riot, Rupert, of course, was elected as Noah and proudly steered their course. Molly, ever practical, collected water cress, nuts and berries 'for their long journey' and knew Mum would be pleased to add them to the shared food store for with so many mouths to feed all food was welcome.

One day the youngsters discovered that their little creek actually flowed down to the duck pond and although Molly erred on the side of caution and said they should go back to their camp the other 'sailors' were keen to press on so they did.

In no time at all they were at the edge of the pond and ducks being very nosy creatures swam towards them to see what was happening. Rupert saw the young duck he'd named Fluffy (when it hatched out in the Church Hall at Easter, they had brought him back to his grateful Mother duck), and decided that, in true seafaring fashion they should paddle their raft to the island in the middle of the pond. We might even find

treasure he said, getting quite carried away, Molly was not at all sure about this for she was a sensible young mouse, however, once again she was overruled and off they set reaching the island fairly quickly helped on by the ducks swimming behind them and giving them a little push.

Once they reached the island they carefully tied up their raft and set about exploring. It was a fascinating place, they found a lot more watercress which pleased Molly and to their delight a nest of Moorhen chicks being carefully guarded by their parents. There was a huge weeping Willow tree in the centre of the island which made it seem a very 'secret' place although a bit dark.

It was this that decided Rupert to head for home but they had spent so long exploring the island that it took a while to find their way back to where the raft was tied up. Alberto being over excited jumped for the raft but missed and landed on a lily leaf and started drifting away from the shore. Doing his best to hurry without panicking, Rupert got the rest on to the raft and untied it paddling like crazy trying to catch up with a terrified Alberto, who was by now sobbing pitifully in between crying for help, of course every time the raft got nearer the water pushed the Lily leaf further away. Fluffy, the duck, saw what was happening and glided up to Alberto, saying "quickly little mouse, climb onto my back and I'll get you safely back". Alberto did this and was soon nestled in the comfortable feathers enjoying a fast and thrilling ride. Seeing this Rupert steered the raft back to the creek and Alberto was reunited with his cousins. They thanked Fluffy profusely and he said that once they had rescued him and he'd just returned the favour.

The now subdued young mice paddled up the creek towards home and safety, and agreed that it was best not to tell the parents anything of their adventures as it would only worry them! The Mums were very glad to see them home and were pleased with all the foodstuff they had brought back with them. Asked about their trip by Grandpa they replied that they'd had a nice little paddle along the creek but were rather tired now, he gave them an 'old fashioned' look but said nothing more. Ah well, he thought, 'all's well that ends well', one day they might tell us a bit more!

**CT**

# Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Our August Garden Party at Ellen Bartlett's home was an extremely enjoyable afternoon. It kicked off with a chariot race between two of our ladies to see who could reach the sandwiches and cakes first! Thank you, again, Ellen.



In September, the Rev'd Canon Hugh Beavan delighted us with tales about his 'Roots in Rural South Shropshire'. Both Hugh's parents were doctors and, with WW2 imminent, Hugh's father thought Clunbury would be a good place for the family to live.

Hugh's grandparents moved back to Clunbury from Devon to be nearer the family and Hugh recounted many happy memories of cycling along lanes, climbing Clunbury Hill, swimming in the river, picking whinberries and singing in the church choir.

The next meeting on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October will follow a Church service and all members are encouraged to attend.

**Mary Hanmer**

## Harvest Flowers 2019

The Church will be open to visitors on Saturday, 5th October from 10.30am - 5.00pm. Drinks and light refreshments will be served.



Please take this opportunity to bring your friends, relatives and neighbours along to see the Harvest displays. This is a wonderful way of bringing people into our Church on a very informal and friendly basis. Please pray that our visitors will sense the presence of God and want to know more of that presence and His love in their lives.

**Peter Hearsum**

### **Welcome to Maggie and Jacquie!**

They are already very familiar friends, but now we are blessed to welcome Maggie and Jacquie as deacons and assistant curates to serve with us alongside Viv.

Like Viv, they are “locally-deployed self-supporting ministers”. This jargon simply means that they offer their time and energies as a wonderful gift, and don’t receive a stipend.

It also means that they are licensed to serve a particular locality, though their ordination as deacon is universal.

St Leonard’s is a tremendously supportive community, and it’s essential that we continue to support Jacquie and Maggie by praying for them, and by being sensitive to the changes to their responsibilities and patterns that ordination brings. Part of this is to do all we can to respect their working pattern so they are able to balance their ministries with the rest of their busy lives. So it’s helpful to note that Jacquie will be normally be on duty to the parish on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, as well as most Sundays, and that Maggie will be normally be on duty to the parish on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, as well as most Sundays.

I know I’m not alone in giving thanks to God for the gift of who they are, for the gift of their ministries, and for the gift of our shared participation in God’s mission with all at St Leonard’s!

**Matt**



## Jacquie and Maggie's Reflections

September 14th was just such an amazing day and we want to thank you all for your love, prayers and support; it has meant so much to us over the last year since we started at St Mellitus to start our journey to ordination.

Since June, when we finished our studies, to this point has seemed at times a very long wait, however we have both felt that during that time we have had time for reflection, refreshment and preparation.



### **Maggie's reflection:**

Such a roller coaster of emotions - from the quiet, reflective time on retreat to the serious moment of swearing our oaths onto the joy and spirit-filled experience at Chelmsford Cathedral. So many special moments - searching and finding Steve's face in the crowd, my agnostic friend going forward for a blessing and the absolute warmth that surrounded us both inside and outside the Cathedral. To be back home at St Leonard's though on Sunday morning was very special. Sharing the 'deacon duties' with Jacquie was a culmination of our journey together over the past year. Thank you St Leonard's.

### **Jacquie's reflection:**

'Sitting thinking of all that has happened over the last few days, with all the wonder and beauty at the cathedral, the wise words spoken and the wonderful support from all who were there, especially my husband Robert and my lovely children and grandchildren, the best part has to be coming into my home church today and feeling the community of God's people there upholding us, willing us to have a good service, regardless of any mistakes. Thank you my brothers and sisters in Christ.'

Thank you all for the beautiful flowers and generous gifts to us both. As we move in service amongst you, walk alongside you and serve God in this place, the parish and wider community we want to assure you of our love, prayers and support.



# COFFEE MORNING

A big “thank you” to Sonia Lewis for holding the Coffee Morning in her home on 31st August.

Sonia and her family were so pleased to have the opportunity to raise awareness and funds for Huntington’s Disease as Matt Saines, a school and college friend of Sonia’s grandson, has sadly been diagnosed with this hereditary neurological condition. Approximately £50 was raised. The Bring & Buy and Raffle for Church funds raised £170 approximately. There will be no Coffee Morning in October but I hope to arrange a venue for Sat. 9th November.

**Jean Hallett**

## Owen’s Cards

Owen Shepherd will be selling his handmade cards in church after the services on Sundays October 20<sup>th</sup> and November 17<sup>th</sup>.

## MAGAZINE DEADLINE

Final day for items for the NOVEMBER edition:

**SUNDAY 13<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  
and limit text to 500-600 words maximum.  
Longer articles may be edited. Thank you