

ORDINARY PEOPLE. EXTRAORDINARY GOD.



PARISH MAGAZINE
NOVEMBER 2019 50p



Finding Light in the Darkness

November seems to me to have a rather nocturnal feel to it; the clocks have gone back and the nights have well and truly drawn in by now, so we find ourselves getting up on dark mornings to days which more often than not remain rather dark and dreary; and then night falls again in mid -afternoon!

At the beginning of November the Church commemorates All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day. These two occur on consecutive days because they are closely linked. At All Saints we remember and give thanks for the many saints of history who over the centuries have lived and, in some cases, died for their faith; who by their lives and example have heartened and inspired Christians through the ages. As the communion of saints, they remain members of the Church and continue to encourage us.

At All Souls we remember our own saints: those we have known, who have gone before us from this world to the next, who have influenced our lives and inspired our faith, whom we have loved and who have loved us. Just as the saints of history continue to be part of the Church, so our own saints remain with us, as part of what makes us who we are, and we are never fully separated from them. It's not that we need to be reminded of them; the sense of loss, though it fades to some extent over time, never completely disappears. All Souls provides an opportunity for us to bring to the fore our feelings about those we miss.

We want and need to continue to talk about our departed loved ones, to recognise their significance in our lives, and to keep memories alive; but talking about death and bereavement is still difficult in our society. Our friends feel uncomfortable and don't know how to comfort us and, after a while, they tend to avoid the subject. We are supposed to 'get over it' and carry on. And life does go on; it has to. But we still need to acknowledge those who were important to us, and whose absence now

has an impact on our lives. On 3rd November, at our evening service for All Souls, we will be with others who understand how we feel because they too are bereaved. We can take comfort in the worship and the fellowship, and in hearing our loved one's name spoken. We can bring our grief to God, and tell him how we feel.

Then as November progresses, we come to Remembrance Sunday, when we and the country as a whole will remember and give thanks for the many whose lives have been taken by wars. Maybe it is fitting that November feels dark. But on 24th we see a spark of light, as we celebrate the feast of Christ the King. Jesus died young and cruelly, but rising again to new life he gave us hope for what is to come. Death is not the end for our loved ones or for those departed saints and soldiers. We have Christ's promise that through him there is peaceful rest in heaven for them, and for us too in due course.

So November needn't feel gloomy and dark – apart from the weather! This is our time to honour and celebrate those who have inspired, loved and formed us, to offer to God our thanks, and our sorrow, to find hope and to comfort and to encourage one another, before in December we look forward to rejoicing in the new life that began with the birth of Jesus.

Have a blessed month.

CONFIRMATIONS AT CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL

At **3.30pm** on **Sunday 24th November** we are encouraging as many people as possible to join us at **Chelmsford Cathedral** where Bishop Stephen will be confirming a number of candidates from St Leonard's

To enable as many people as possible to celebrate with our confirmands at the cathedral, please note that we've

cancelled our evening service at St Leonard's on Sunday 24th November. We hope to see you in Chelmsford.

Matt, David and Esther

NOVEMBER DIARY

Saturday 2nd

8.30am Men's Breakfast in the Nicholls Room

10.30am - 12.00noon Coffee Morning at 20 Wordsworth Road

SUNDAY 3rd ALL SAINTS

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9.45am ALL AGE EUCHARIST

6.30pm Annual Memorial Service

Monday 4th

7.00pm Eucharist

7.45pm PCC in the Nicholls Room

Tuesday 5th

10.00am Holy Communion at Wren House

2.30pm Lexden Ladies in the Nicholls Room

Wednesday 6th

10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee

10.45am Holy Communion at Woodlands

11.30am Remembrance Holy Communion at Cheviot

Thursday 7th

8.00am Eucharist

SUNDAY 10th REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9.45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church

10.55am Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial

6.30pm Taizé Evening Worship

Tuesday 12th

2.30pm Mothers' Union in the Nicholls Room

7.30pm 'Medley' house group (Rosemary 515245)

Wednesday 13th

10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee

Thursday 14th

- 8.00am Eucharist
- 2.30pm 'Constable' house group (Hugh 564577). For venue see weekly newsletter.

Saturday 16th

8.30am Women's Breakfast in the Nicholls Room

SUNDAY 17th 2nd Sunday before Advent

- 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 9.45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church
- 3.00pm OMG+
- 6.30pm Evensong and Sermon

Monday 18th

11.00am Holy Communion at Hill House

Wednesday 20th

10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee

Thursday 21st

8.00am Eucharist

SUNDAY 24th CHRIST THE KING

- 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 9.45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church
- 3.30pm 5.00pm CONFIRMATION SERVICE Chelmsford Cathedral ***NO EVENING SERVICE AT ST. LEONARD'S***

Monday 25th

7.45pm 'Jubilee' house group at 118 St. John's Road (Maureen 861250).

Saturday 30th

1.00pm Wedding of Wayne Maddock and Jennifer Ansell-Jones

SUNDAY 1st December ADVENT SUNDAY

- 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 9.45am ALL AGE EUCHARIST
- **6.30pm Advent Carol Service**



From the Editor

Hello and welcome to the November edition of the St Leonard's, Lexden parish magazine. My name is Ruth Windscheffel and I am delighted to be taking over as editor from this month's issue.

Firstly, thank you to my predecessors, Viv and Lynne, who have been very kind in showing me the ropes. Viv edited the magazine with love and professionalism for many years and Lynne ably continued Viv's work on top of her own role as administrator whilst a new editor was found. I have large boots to fill, as you can see, so do bear with me whilst I settle in.

For those of you who may not know me, just a word of introduction. I've been worshipping regularly at St Leonard's for about three years and serve as sidesperson and intercessor. When I can, I sing with Lexden Choral. I'm married to Alex and we have one son, Felix, who attends Market Field School. In my professional life, I am a university lecturer (History and Education).

Do please keep sending me your wonderful articles and pictures. Reports of trips you've made, volunteering work you've done in Colchester and beyond, book reviews, poetry, etc. are welcome. If you just have the germ of an idea, simply email me and we can talk about it.

A BIG THANK YOU!

A big thank you to everyone who contributed to the magnificent sum of £515.35 for the Macmillan team who work alongside people with cancer, providing support for them and their families.



A huge thank you too for the magnificent team who made this possible. These things don't just happen! Many thanks.

Julie Hinchcliffe

The Carpenter's Bench

Earlier this year, my brothers and I, all born and bred in Sheffield, visited some World War I sites in Belgium and France. We found the experience interesting and moving, humbling and horrifying.



We started in Ypres, now called leper. Besides two Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemeteries in the town (one beside the ramparts next to the moat, the other next to the prison), there are several memorials, notably the Menin Gate. This massive monument commemorates the more than 50,000 British and Commonwealth soldiers who went missing in action until mid-August 1917 in battles around the Ypres salient and have "no known grave". Since 1928, every evening, except during World War II, uniformed buglers from the local fire brigade have sounded the last post there. The ceremony we attended was solemn, well organised with a large crowd, including youngsters, maintaining a respectful silence — no chatter, no mobile phones ringing, no clapping. Several wreaths and floral tributes were presented; the last by a girl and a boy from a local Jewish school. The dispersing crowd were clearly moved and reflective.

In the area, we also visited the immense Tyne Cot cemetery; the memorial to Major John McCrae, the Canadian surgeon who wrote "In Flanders Field", as well as the dressing station where he served, which is set into the canal bank; and, near Messines, the Island of Ireland Peace Park. The tower and garden here, with its memorial stones, recognise

those from all over Ireland, of all political and religious traditions, who fought and died together. The Park was opened in 1998 by president of Ireland, Mary McAleese, in the presence of Queen Elizabeth II and of King Albert II of Belgium.

Of personal interest to us was Talbot House in Poperinge, a small town a few miles west of Ypres. This non-religious refuge, where soldiers could relax and unwind "out of the lines", was opened by two British army chaplains, Neville Talbot and Philip "Tubby" Clayton. Tubby was a distant cousin who knew our father. The front door bore the message "All rank abandon ye who enter here", which set the right tone. Amongst other amenities, there was a library, a concert hall and a peaceful garden. In the loft, is the "Upper Room". This was, and still is, the chapel. Much of the original furniture remains, such as scrounged benches and candlesticks made from bedposts. The altar was made from an old workbench found in the garden shed. Complete with rusty old nails and saw marks, it bears the inscription: "This carpenter's bench was in use as the

altar For the worship of the Carpenter".

Using army signalling code, Talbot House was known as TocH and was the forerunner of those hostels. The House is still intact and operating. Many of the original artefacts, such as cartoons and military memorabilia are displayed in the hostel. It is a very peaceful place, and it is easy to pic-



ture the relaxed Padre helping weary soldiers to refresh their minds, bodies and souls in a brief interlude from the dreadful carnage of Ypres. In that place, it is easy to reflect on what has gone before and say a prayer there for peace and to be thankful that our generation has not had to face those horrors of 100 years ago.

Richard Peile





November

3rd November	All-Age Eucharist
10th November	Remembrance Sunday Activities
17th November	Pull your weight The power of positive example; playing your part in the community of faith. 2 Thessalonians 3.6-13
24th November	Christ the King Being in awe of God. Luke 23.33-43

Cover photo: Iranian Poppies by Shokufeh Pour-Reza on Unsplash.com

Hello from Thea, St Leonard's new Youth Worker...



First of all, I want to thank everyone for being so welcoming. Whether having lunch or a nice chat after the service on Sunday, it makes settling in a lot easier.

For those of you whom I haven't already met: I am Thea, 18 years old and the new youth worker at St Leonard's. Next August, I'll return to my home town Ulm which is located in the south of Germany. In the time of my absence, my parents and my younger sister can't wait to hear the news of my latest adventures in 'Old England'. Even though I've already had some adventurous experiences, I hope there are more great things to come.

This year, I left school with my Abitur (equivalent to A levels) and decided to spend a year in England which has always been a dream of mine. During my time here, I hope to discover faith in new ways, help where I can and learn about English culture and to see for myself whether the English weather really is that bad, people love queuing and have Afternoon Tea or whether that's just a stereotype people imagine on the continent! In my free time I enjoy reading books, being creative and I am interested in everything related to photography. Besides that, I love learning languages, eating chocolate and discovering new places.

Whether it's working with the Scouts, the toddler group or helping out at the school, I am really looking forward to everything that's coming.

Hope to see you around!

Thea

It Starts with a Shoebox....



Leaflets <u>and Boxes</u> for **Operation Christmas Child** are still available in Church but are due back by **Sunday 10th November**.

Please note that the donation towards transport is now £5.00. This needs to be put in the box or paid on line.

Please follow the instructions carefully; noting which items should NOT be included.

Secure the box lid with a rubber band.

Thank you. Tom and Kathleen Scrimgeour – 574797

MAGAZINE DEADLINE

Deadline for items for the DECEMBER edition:

SUNDAY 10th NOVEMBER

Please submit items to the Editor email: 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.



Our October Meeting began with a Communion Service conducted by The Reverend Matt Simpkins assisted by The Reverend Maggie Whitman.

The theme of Matt's sermon was "Don't worry about tomorrow" and reflected on the Reading which was Ruth 1, read by Jean Holden with its connotation of joy coming out of sorrow, appropriate at this time for our Branch and others in the Diocese as we contemplate whether to continue our affiliation to the Central Mothers' Union.

Sheila Cook said Intercession Prayers and Janet Crees played the organ for three hymns: "Tell out my Soul the Greatness of the Lord", "Thine be the Glory", and "Now thank we all our God".

The Service was followed by an Extraordinary General Meeting with 16 members present plus Matt and Maggie.

Our next Meeting will be on **Tuesday, 12th November** when Kay Abbott will give a talk entitled "My Scilly Love Affair". This will be an open meeting when we will welcome visitors at a charge of £2 per person to include tea and biscuits.

Mary Hanmer and Jean Hallett

LEXDEN LADIES

At our October meeting we welcomed the Rev'd Jacquie Messenger, one of our newly ordained deacons. She gave us an excellent insight into her journey to the Ministry starting with attending Sunday school at the church next door to where she lived at a young age and ending with the various courses she has attended since coming to St Leonards. It was a light hearted but down-to-earth account of the many ups and downs before she was convinced that she should commit to priesthood. Thank you Jacquie!

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 5th November at 2.30pm when our speaker will be Dr. Jane Pearson. Her talk is entitled "19th Century doctors in Colchester". All welcome. Admission £2.

Margaret Tel: 579629



Mouse Tails

After their wonderful summer holiday with the Woods cousins, the Church mice came home in good time for Harvest Festival, one of their favourite events of the year. They had brought back a great selection of foods from the woods ready for their traditional Harvest feast. As always whilst visiting their cousins, they had made plans for the occasion and Grandpa and the Dads had foraged for berries (for wine and cordial making) and the Mums had brought home watercress, seeds and nuts. On the night before the service, the Church and Hall mice congregated to view the wonderful decorations that had been made by the humans. They were especially thrilled to see that small pumpkins, fruit, corn and vegetables had been used in the displays. The youngsters scampered around the Church playing hide and seek. Pablo's youngest, Alberto, hid himself so well that his parents got really anxious. Predictably, he had fallen asleep amongst the foliage at the bottom of the font!

Of course, the mice were also on the lookout for foodstuff to scavenge for their feast but felt it would be wrong to disturb the arrangements until Sunday night. They did earmark which treasures they could harvest for themselves without making too much mess. They were all thrilled to discover their friend Jack Straw and his family hiding among the corn a nearby farmer had brought in. It was agreed that they would stay with the Flower-room mice until after the festivities.

On Sunday evening, when all the humans had gone home, Grandpa conducted their own Thanksgiving service. The mouse choir sang 'All things bright and beautiful' and 'We plough the fields and scatter', which were their particular favourites, accompanied by young Tommy Organ. All the mice joined in squeaking as loud as they could. Not strictly tuneful to the human ear, but the mice enjoyed it and the words were meant sincerely.

After the service, they all scavenged among the floral and vegetable creations. Some of the items had been waxed to preserve them, but this didn't bother the mice! What was a bit of wax to their strong teeth?

Armed with their goodies, they trooped up the hill to the Hall to begin their feast. As usual, the Mums had done wonders with the ingredients and everything looked positively scrummy; the Dads had done a splendid job of making the beer, cordial and wines for the evening and everyone tucked in with gusto.

The youngsters were allowed to run around and play games until their Mums decided that they were getting too hot, excited and tired and told them to sit down and drink some cordial or water. The very young ones were put to bed in their own cosy nests, leaving the adults and older children to catch up on their news and plan the next event, which would be Bonfire Night. The Wood cousins wouldn't be attending this because they felt it would be too dangerous for the youngsters to be out late at night, but they did some rough planning for their Christmas get-together. It was a lovely day and feast and all the mice went to their nests happy. CT

COFFEE MORNING



Rosemary Elden has kindly agreed to hold a Coffee Morning on **Saturday 2nd November** at her home, **20 Wordsworth Road**, from **10.30 - 12 noon**.

There will be the usual 'Bring and Buy' of home produce, plants, jigsaws and books and a Raffle.

Please come along and support this get-together, which will be for church funds and charities and meet your friends and/or bring a friend.

Jean Hallett

HARVEST FLOWERS

THANK YOU to all who helped in any way with the decorating of the Church for Harvest Weekend: to the arrangers, to Rachel and her catering team, for music throughout Saturday morning, and for help with the posters along the front of the Church and to all who took out invitations and brought along friends.



Saturday was a very happy day with visitors we have not seen before and friends who come along whenever we open the Church on this kind of occasion. We had visitors who were new to Lexden and some who were just visiting the town. We were able to invite them to come to the Church at any time and to join us in worship whenever they would like to.

Several people have complimented me on the decoration of the Church, and I would like to make it clear that it was the imagination of the arrangers which achieved the result. I merely allocated the area to be decorated, telling them that we wanted a traditional Harvest Festival with a rustic look, using fruit ,vegetables and seed heads, as well as flowers in oranges, yellows and reds. You have seen that the outcome was wonderful!

The refreshments were very popular and raised £187 which will be passed on to the Food Bank. Thanks again Rachel and team.

Peter Hearsum

[Photo: Helen Fullerton]



Calm is the morn without a sound,

Calm as to suit a calmer grief,

And only thro' the faded leaf

The chestnut pattering to the ground:

Calm and deep peace on this high wold,

And on these dews that drench the furze.

And all the silvery gossamers

That twinkle into green and gold:

Calm and still light on yon great plain

That sweeps with all its autumn bowers,

And crowded farms and lessening towers,

To mingle with the bounding main:

Calm and deep peace in this wide air,

These leaves that redden to the fall;

And in my heart, if calm at all,

If any calm, a calm despair:

Calm on the seas, and silver sleep,

And waves that sway themselves in rest,

And dead calm in that noble breast

Which heaves but with the heaving deep.

Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1850) In Memoriam A. H. H. (lyric 11)

Dresden – a past remembered and a vision for the future



A story of bombs and floods, all within living memory, and the courage to survive are the things we brought away from our visit to Dresden. The choice of a walking holiday in a beautiful area known as 'Swiss' Saxony, meant we were only a short train ride away.

Born after the war, I was always told that the bombing of Dresden played a necessary part in bringing the Second World War in Europe to an end. Dresden was not alone to have suffered this fate. In the '60s, hitchhiking my way through Germany towards Denmark to visit my godmother, I was offered a lift by a man returning home to Hannover, which, he said, had been completely destroyed by wartime bombing. The city had been re-built exactly as it had been before, with the result, he added with a note of irony, that things still didn't work!

The first impression, on arriving at Dresden *Hauptbahnhof* was that the city's leaders (when it was part of the former German Democratic Republic) had seized the opportunity to do the complete opposite and create an entirely new city around the magnificently restored old town. We were struck immediately by a feeling of space. The main drag between the railway station and the central bridge across the river Elbe had become a beautiful modern thoroughfare about a hundred yards wide with fountains and trees, closed to traffic, and flanked either side with shops.

During a visit to a hostelry overlooking the river in the old town, we found a chart on the wall recording the high-water marks of the floods of 2002 and 2013. Pirna, where we were staying, was only a few miles upstream and it was obvious that our hotel could not have escaped these events. We asked Ilka, the proprietor, how she had been affected. In 2013, at its height, the water would have been waist high in the reception area. And in 2002? Our feet would have only just touched the ground.

The destruction of Dresden in February 1945 had been no natural disaster. The *Frauenkirche* had been completely destroyed and its ruins left as a war memorial for 50 years. To one side of the building, what we took to be part of an old city wall had been carefully preserved. There was a small plaque on the side with tiny writing explaining that this was a massive section of the cupola from the original building. It had fallen from a great height, embedded itself in the ground and had been left as a memorial. The plaque included the words *ungerechte Gewalt* — unlawful use of power. The church's painstaking restoration, accelerated after German Reunification, was only completed in 2005 and the building now stands as a symbol of reconciliation with an active peace mission. One other memorial explicitly referred to the 25,000 dead as a result of Anglo-American bombing. Sarah talked afterwards of a feeling of guilt by association.

We returned to Pirna with mixed emotions: respect for the restraint shown by Dresden's present citizens in passing judgement on the past and their ability to put it behind them; admiration for the vision and courage to create a completely modern city; awe at the huge undertaking involved in its detailed reconstruction. A 21st century phoenix had risen from the ashes of war. Dresden had turned itself around and offered now only the warmest of greetings to its visitors.



Robin Greatorex

[Photos: by Dejan Zakic and Pavel Nekoranec on Unsplash.com]

Hampers for Newhythe

Newhythe is in our parish and is situated on London Road and is a specialist supported housing scheme for young people (single people and couples) aged 16 - 25 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 is made up of 16 self-contained units. The aim is to offer 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 individual needs. Newhythe support workers help the residents with all aspects of living in their own home, including day-to day living skills and also support them in their new role as parents.

St Leonard's will be supporting Newhythe by providing Christmas hampers again this year. A list of items for the hampers will be on the weekly newsletter but suitable items might include: toiletries for baby and mother, nappies, baby wipes, a small baby toy and perhaps chocolate for the parents.



The ages of the babies are 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 and 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.

Please consider helping this good cause; any support you can give will be very much appreciated.

Judith Steele 07748910455

Book Review: *Mrs Palfrey at the Claremont* by Elizabeth Taylor

This was the *Church Times* reading group book of the month for May and was also read on Radio 4's *Book at Bedtime*. I chose it for the Constable group for summer holiday reading and we discussed it at our September meeting.

A sad story, but with many touches of humanity and humour, it is a study of the elderly permanent residents of a hotel in South Kensington in the pre-digital 1970s, seen through the eyes of one of them, Laura Palfrey, the widow of a colonial administrator. She has decided that she no longer wishes to live alone on the South coast and decides on the Claremont after seeing an advertisement for it in a Sunday newspaper: 'Reduced rates, excellent cuisine'. We can take that with a pinch of salt, she had thought at the time, and she was to be proved right!

Mrs P. tells one of the residents that she has a grandson, Desmond, who lives in Hampstead and works at the British Museum, and who she is sure will come to see her, although he never does, nor does he reply to her letters. One day she is out for a walk, has a fall and is rescued by a charming young man, Ludo, who shows her great understanding and kindness. She invites him to dinner at the hotel and tells the other guests that he is her grandson, Desmond. A happy friendship develops between the two. There is a hilarious scene, like an Oscar Wilde farce, when the real Desmond does actually turn up, and Mrs P. has to keep him away from the other residents. And there is a similar scene at the end of the book when he turns up and discovers Mrs P. has gone into hospital and the other residents refuse to believe he really is her grandson.

The novel has a bitter-sweet ending: Ludo visits her in hospital, having brought her poetry book from which he recites Wordsworth's 'Daffodils'. The ward sister describes her death as 'lovely, she just slipped away. We were so glad and proud to do what we could for her'. At the Claremont, they watched the deaths column in the *Daily Telegraph*, but no notice of her death appeared. Her daughter had decided that there was no one left who would be interested.

This beautifully written novel — shortlisted for the Booker prize on first publication in 1971 — raises questions about loneliness and being valued in old age. Although we are told that two of the residents went to church on a Sunday, it seemed that faith and church played no part in Mrs P.'s life or in the lives of most of the residents. One wonders how much more fulfilled their lives might have been had they had a living faith and involvement in a church community?

Hugh Beavan

December Magazine Cover Competition Calling all artists!

If you would like your colour art work to feature on the magazine's cover for December, please let me have your entries with an Advent/Christmas theme by the next deadline (**Sunday 10th November**).

Preferably email me a .jpeg file, or bring the original to Church for me to scan (you will get it back...!)

Maximum size A4. Landscape or portrait. Please make sure your name is on your work for me to credit it properly.

The Editor



Christmas Bazaar 2019—Saturday 7th December

The Bazaar will take place in the Church Hall from 10.30am.

As well as the usual stalls, we need donations of jewellery, toiletries, gifts and house plants for a new stall.

(No Bric-a-Brac, please!)

Refreshments will be available.

Thank you for your support.

For further information please contact:

Tom and Kathleen Scrimgeour (574797) or Joan Hearsum (766906)





Remembrance &
Thanksgiving Concert



Mozart Requiem

Holst Chillingworth Elgar Vaughan Williams Chillingworth Jupiter For the Fallen Nimrod The Old 100th Abide with me

Last Night of the Proms with Audience Participation
Kingfisher Sinfonietta led by Beth Spendlove
Conductor: John Chillingworth

St Botolph's Church, Colchester Saturday 9th November 2019 at 7.30pm

Tickets £15.00 (£9.00 under 18 / full-time students)
From: Mann's Music / Box Office 01206 543280
lexdenchoral.org / or at the door