



THE PARISH CHURCH OF  
ST LEONARD, LEXDEN

ORDINARY PEOPLE. EXTRAORDINARY GOD.



PARISH MAGAZINE

MAY 2020

**WANT A CHAT?**  
**WORRIED ABOUT SOMEONE?**  
**CONTACT US:**

Parish Administrator, Lynne Saint: 07582442682

admin@stleonardslexden.org.uk

Pastoral Co-ordinator, Margaret Smith: 01206 547803

margaret@stleonardslexden.org.uk

Priest in Charge, The Revd Matt Simpkins: 01206 577392

matt@stleonardslexden.org.uk

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2. Follow the instructions to 'Create a new account', entering your details. Remember that you don't need to use any other part of Facebook to access our site: you don't need to add friends for example.
3. Using the search function in Facebook look for 'St Leonard's Lexden' or type [www.facebook.com/stleonardslexden](http://www.facebook.com/stleonardslexden) into your internet browser.
4. Click or press on the button that says 'Like' and has a thumbs up sign.
5. That's it! ***But, if it doesn't work, please contact a friend for help.***



## Matt's May Letter

One of the things that social distancing has focussed my mind on, is compiling a list the places I would *really* love to be able to visit!

Near the very top of my list is the Suffolk Coast.

It is a landscape marked by relentless change caused by the currents of the North Sea, the power of its waves, the movements of shingle, and the evolving courses of the rivers that flow out into the sea.

Traditionally, artists have been inspired by this coast to focus on the inevitability of change and loss in our lives, but I find something rather different and more inspiring there.

Of course, I would love to have seen the glories of medieval Dunwich before it disappeared beneath the waves; but the romance of the myth of Dunwich is a joy in itself, isn't it?

Just up the coast at Walberswick, the first village and its church were moved wholesale away from the encroaching sea at the beginning of the middle ages. Then a mighty new church was built with the proceeds from the impressive trade of the port. But later – when the fortunes of the village waned, a new smaller church was built inside the old. And the fabulous late medieval nave and chancel were left to go to ruin. And that's how you'll find it today: a ruin with a small church nestling inside it. (There's a similar ruin at Covehithe, and you can find my observations and photographs of it later in this edition.)

We shouldn't be blinded by the quaintness and romanticism of this – admittedly very beautiful – scene, however. Actually, it puts its finger on exactly why I think we really should love the Suffolk Coast. Not because of the cosy nostalgia of lost glories, but because *despite* all this change its essential character (and Christian worship) has carried on regardless. Indeed, if change were not part of this landscape, it wouldn't be the

same landscape at all!

Just as those villages and church communities had to adapt, so we are having to adapt now here in Lexden. We are adapting to new ways of being together and worshipping together, adapting to new ways of prayer, new ways of pastoral support, and – excitingly, I think – new opportunities for mission and evangelism.

While not everyone is able to access the internet, those who are able to will have noticed that old friends and new have been joining us for our live-streams and reflections. We are honoured and privileged that in these difficult times people honour us with their virtual presence as they seek God’s love. And we are honoured that those who can’t join us in this way are praying at home.

The changes of the world should focus us on the changelessness of God’s love. God’s love is not going away. And neither is the church. The churchwardens of Walberswick must have found the decision to build a smaller church inside the old very painful, and many of the choices we’ve made recently have been painful too. But there – and here – worship continues.

Daily we are reminded that ‘the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is [his] faithfulness.’

And so please carry on all you are already doing: praying regularly, studying the Scriptures, keeping in touch with one another, and letting our pastoral team know of anyone who is ill or isolated.

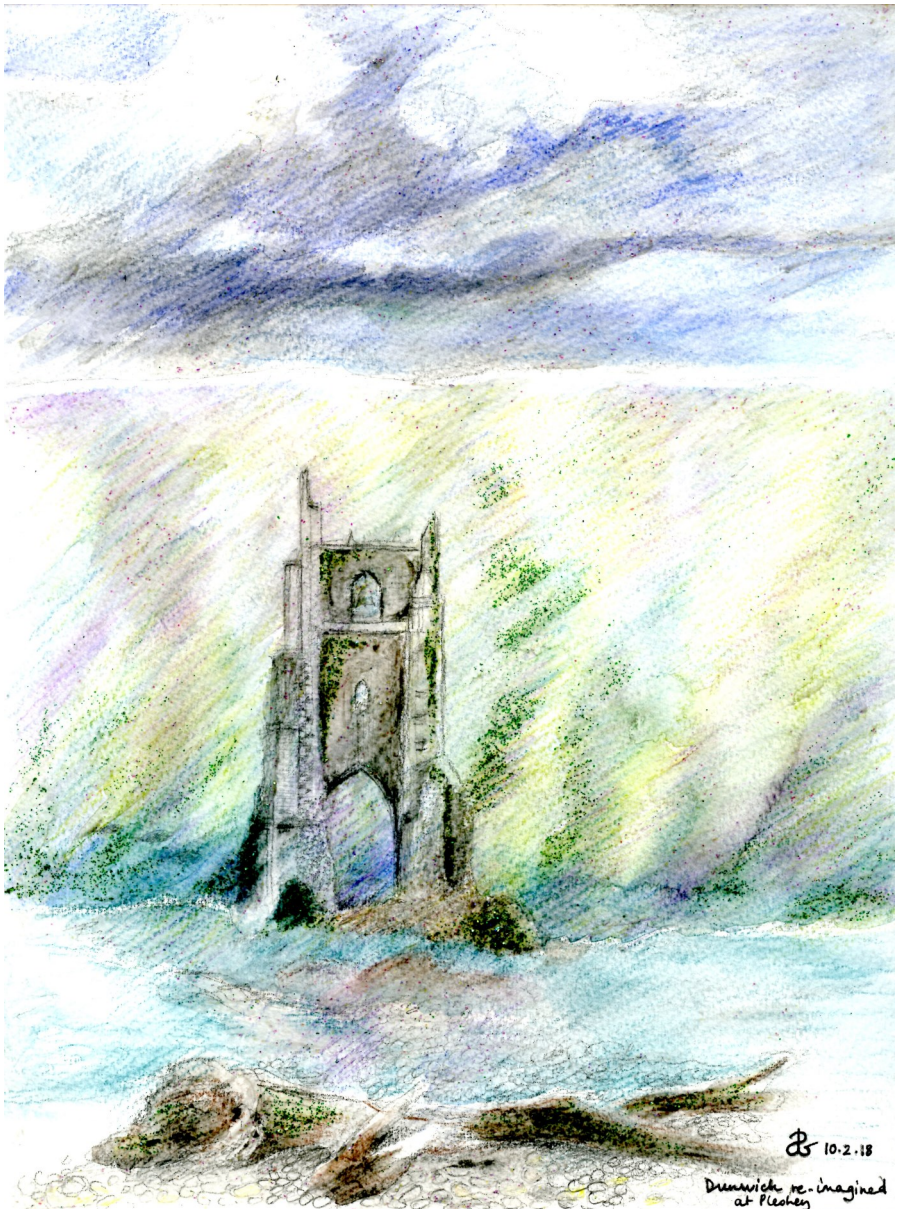
With the assurance of my continued prayers,

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

Cover image: Spring flowers. St Leonard’s Lexden.

#### ADVERTISEMENTS

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*Dunwich Church re-imagined. 2018. RCW*



## From the Churchwardens

On behalf of the congregation we would like to say a huge and heartfelt “Thank You!” to Matt, Viv, Jacquie and Maggie for leading us in our virtual worship over the last few weeks of lockdown. It is lovely to see so many people joining together to praise God and, although it is not the way we would prefer to worship, we are blessed to have the opportunity to gather on-line in this way. And we send our special thanks to Siân, Martha and James for their enthusiastic and moving contributions to the services: reading, singing, palm waving, fire lighting (and extinguishing) and intercessions to name but a few.

Thanks also to the pastoral team for keeping in touch with so many of the congregation, the Junior Church and Youth Group leaders for keeping our young people engaged, the finance team for keeping the bills paid and Lynne for her continued support. We are blessed to have all of you.



Looking forward to a time when we can be together physically but, until then, stay safe, stay in touch and stay at home.

**David and Esther**



## From the Editor

Dear readers,

May's issue is online only—we still are unable to distribute hard copies—but the good news is, it's colourful! I've included details of the Archbishop of Canterbury's latest initiative—Daily Hope—a free phone line aimed at those without internet access. If you know any one in this position would like this service, do pass on the phone number.

The content as well as the format of this issue is influenced by the situation in which we find ourselves. However, we have items that look beyond lockdown—to the days when we can go down to the sea again—and reference the endurance of faith, hope and love in our world. Reading Matt's description of Dunwich's lost church reminded me I'd painted an imaginative picture of it a couple of years ago—bells still ringing—whilst on retreat at Pleshey, in response to Psalm 139's words: 'if I make my bed in the depths, you are there'. You can see it after Matt's letter. Take care all of you. **Ruth**

# From the Treasury Team

Dear Friends

Thank you to all who give their time, talents and financial support to St Leonard's Church, Lexden. We are living in unusual times and as a member of the St Leonard's Treasurer Team, I am writing today to ask for your help.

The suspension of services and closure of the church buildings due to the COVID19 pandemic has meant that the income that St Leonard's receives has reduced. This is as a result of us having fewer opportunities for giving in the usual ways. Whilst income is reduced, unsurprisingly, expenditure continues - both locally to support our church and further afield to support the work of the wider church.

Rest assured that income is still being received from those of us who give regularly to the church via Standing Order or the Parish Giving Scheme (Direct Debit).

Regrettably, the current situation means that it is more difficult for St Leonard's to receive giving from those of us who normally give regularly using the Stewardship Envelope Scheme and from the collection plate at services.

Hence, the reason for writing is to encourage those of us who currently regularly give support by "blue envelopes" and "white envelopes" to consider making the change to a more automated scheme such as Standing Order, the Parish Giving Scheme or by Online banking.

Should you wish to explore this further please contact either one of us, Tom Scrimgeour (01206 574797) or Adrian Steward (01206 561462).

If you are currently giving support through the envelope scheme, please do consider making a change to one of the automated methods. This will help ensure that St Leonard's continues to receive your financial support during these challenging times.

In the meantime, do take care, stay safe and stay up to date if you can, using the variety of email and Facebook communications that have been made available to us.

**Adrian Steward**

For and on behalf of the St Leonard's Treasurer Team



0800 804 8044

# DailyHOPE

A free phone line of hymns,  
reflections and prayers

The Archbishop of Canterbury has launched a free national phone line as a simple new way to bring worship and prayer into people's homes while church buildings are closed because of the coronavirus. Daily Hope, offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line.

The line – which is available 24 hours a day on 0800 804 8044 – has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions in mind. The service is supported by the Church of England nationally as well as through the Connections group based at Holy Trinity Claygate in Surrey and the Christian charity Faith in Later Life.

Callers will hear a special greeting from the Archbishop before being able to choose from a range of options, including hymns, prayers, reflections and advice on COVID-19. Options available include materials also available digitally by the Church of England's Communications team such as Prayer During the Day and Night Prayer, updated daily, from Common Worship, and a recording of the Church of England weekly national online service.

A section called Hymn Line offers callers a small selection of hymns, updated daily. An option entitled 'Hymns We Love', provides a hymn and reflection and is based on an initiative by the Connections group.



# Focus on: Tumbledown churches on the Suffolk coast

## Covehithe, St Andrew

This romantic semi-ruined church maintains considerable poise despite awaiting its inevitable fate at the bottom of the ever-encroaching North Sea. Visitors who ignore the warning signs on the adjacent lane quickly discover that it leads to nowhere: or, more accurately, to the base of a sandy cliff.



Covehithe was a once a town, and, like many similar towns on this coast, its fortunes have waxed and waned. When the high tide of Covehithe's prosperity came, St Andrew's striking black coat of translucent knapped flint both glinted in summer sunlight, and brooded against stormy skies.

In its finest state, St Andrew's must have been among the most impressive churches in this county so famous for impressive churches.



The town is now gone. In its place: a pig farm (with attending aromas), a clutch of small cottages, and (in normal circumstances) a smattering of cars parked by dog walkers headed for the nearby beach.

By 1672, the burden of maintaining such a massive church became too much for Covehithe, and a much smaller nave was erected adjoining the tower.



Any masonry left unsold once the parish had generated enough revenue for the new-build remained in situ, presenting future generations with a church inside the ruins of itself. Such faded glory has attracted generations of romantics and artists – among them the watercolourist John

Sell Cotman. It remains up to the North Sea how many more generations will have the opportunity to enjoy Covehithe's charm and mystery.



**Matt**

# Lost Months — Opportunities Gained

If you can't see a car moving on the Lexden Road it is either 8 o'clock on a normal congested weekday morning or any time recently during the time of lockdown. I have been able to work during this time by self-isolating in my van, self-isolating in my unit and self-isolating when I deliver. Delivering wine is not an essential service despite the protestations of grateful customers. Sitting in the sun, taking orders by phone, setting out on empty roads to customers who are always at home to take delivery has been the stuff of fantasy for all my working life. Nobody wants to see me for the evening wine tastings which have been an important part of my working life. Suddenly there is more time, which may hang heavily for some, and worryingly for many more, unable to work from home and with bills to pay. For children it is tempting to think in terms of lost months. Will there really be no summer term? For those who are housebound at the best of times, will there be nothing to break up the week? No Sunday worship or mid-week service? No fellowship? Those of us fit, fortunate or young enough can try to turn lost months into opportunity and take up running, read, garden or have a turn-out, as the nation waits for the green light to return to normal.



In a challenging article in the *i* newspaper, Mark Wallace asks, how might we most productively decide not to go “back to normal”, but to create a

new normal. This question impacts on the whole concept of economic growth and its link to global warming. Many have pointed to the satellite evidence of reduced pollution worldwide during the lockdown and will be suggesting that a return to normal is a return to all that is damaging to the planet.

Some might ask if a return to normal is a return to a 'ceaseless round of activity' that is quite possibly no less damaging to our relationship with our spiritual selves. Working through a large file of cuttings going back some 20 years, I came across a remarkable article, quoted above, by Nigel McCulloch who was, at the time of its publication, Bishop of Wakefield and chairman of the Church of England Mission, Evangelism and Renewal Committee. This was the Decade of Evangelism and he observed that 'clergy and their parishes found themselves under an often unbearable pressure to do more'. He went on to state the case for less busyness and more stillness. I have no doubt my life is no different from that of others who juggle work, church related activities, children, grandchildren, fund-raising for their school, and, in my case, a planned but postponed wedding last Tuesday in Scotland. I have for years talked about the problem of 'layering'; the diary looks clear and one commits to one thing; something else comes up, then another and so on.

In these unprecedented times the burden of commitment has lifted for many. There has been time to rest. I saved Nigel McCulloch's article to remind myself of an arresting observation which he included by the seventeenth-century saint Vincent de Paul: 'It is a trick of the Devil, which he employs to deceive good souls, to incite them to do more than they are able, in order that they may no longer be able to do anything'.

**Robin Greateorex**





## Extracts from a Lockdown Journal

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March**

Psalm: 77 v 1

I cry aloud to God; I cry aloud to God and he will hear me.

Today was full of mixed emotions mostly because I knew it was the last time I would be with my colleagues in St Leonard's Church before I self isolated. The Eucharist, presided over by Matt, was a beautiful experience and it felt as if the church was full - it was I know full of the spirit with people sharing with us from all sorts of locations. We certainly did 'cry aloud to God' for ourselves, families, friends and neighbours all over the world. Through this dark time He is our light and as a deacon I, through His grace, will do all I can to serve my fellow brother and sisters. Matt shared a wonderful prayer and blessing with us before we parted.

Thanks to our local pub we had a lovely roast lunch for Mothering Sunday and thanks to the wonders of Zoom technology our extended family of 33 were able to share some special time -exchanging news, stories and worries. Family and community will be so important at this time, as it should always be - as Christ commanded we must love our neighbours as ourselves and search out those who are alone and isolated.

It was a privilege to share some thoughts about healing over the St Leonard's web page and thank you to all those who shared with me - may be more than may have been in Church. Should we think about streaming some of our services all the time?

This time of isolation is going to be a roller coaster ride with many aspects to it - one might say it is a truly Lenten time when, even though we feel as if we are in the wilderness, we will emerge stronger in the Lord. I know I will struggle without physical human contact so there will be lessons to be learned...

The prayer at the end of today's psalm was very apt:

*Prayer: God our shepherd, you led us and saved us in times of old; do not forget your people in their troubles, but raise up your power to sustain the poor and helpless; for the honour of Jesus Christ our Lord.*

### **Easter Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> April**

#### **Christ is risen, He is risen indeed. Hallelujah**

This has been one of the strangest Easter Sundays - Matt and family did a wonderful service but as Matt pointed out there's nothing quite like physical human contact - to be with one's family and friends, to hug and show how much you care in a physical way is so important - there is no substitute (for some that is never a reality - something to reflect on!) Mary was told by Jesus not to cling to him - He had to go so that we could receive His spirit and so we cling to him in a different way - Lord we cling to you at this time and pray that this isolation will be over soon so we can be with one another. Thank you Lord though that we are free to celebrate your resurrection - so many are not. May the work of your church at this time bring new people to know you - thank you for giving us new ways to reach others and may I fully embrace them and not get lethargic - keep me energised Lord.

Yes, it's been a strange Easter Sunday but precious time shared with family and friends through various means and may the joy of Easter sustain us all.

Prayer: For all my family and friends I thank you and pray that you will uphold all those who live on their own and feel doubly isolated at this time. May we always cling to you and may the joy of Easter sustain us in the coming days. Amen.

**Revd Maggie**



**A prayer for Lexden and St Leonard's**

Loving and faithful God,  
Through your Spirit, gather us in peace and hope,  
Bless and protect us, our friends and families,  
our community of Lexden and Colchester,  
and our church community, we pray;  
And strengthen and uphold us in the way that is before us;  
For the love of your son Jesus Christ, Our Lord,  
**Amen.**

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## Five verses when you need strength

I came across these verses from the Bible which were put together under a heading of 'Five Verses When You Need Strength' by Our Daily Bread Ministries. This article was written before we had heard of coronavirus. They would always be relevant but, especially at this difficult time, I find them comforting words to meditate on and I would like to share them with you.

Those who know your name trust in you, for you, Lord, have never forsaken those who seek you. Psalm 9:10 NRSV

But as for me, I am poor and needy; but the Lord takes thought for me. You are my help and my deliverer; do not delay, O my God. Psalm 40:17 NRSV

When I thought, 'my foot was slipping', your steadfast love, O Lord, held me up. When the cares of my heart are many, your consolations cheer my soul. Psalm 94: 18-19 NRSV

To whom then will you compare me or who is my equal.? Says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them. Calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power; not one is missing. Isaiah 40:25-26 NRSV

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever, Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21 NRSV

**Revd Jacquie**

# St Leonard's Prayer Diary

Please pray for the following residences, people, churches and institutions.  
(Week 1: w/c 23<sup>rd</sup> March; Week 2: w/c 30<sup>th</sup> March; Week 3: w/c 6<sup>th</sup> April, etc.)

## Week 1

### **Sunday**

Cadenhouse Mews, Back Lane and King  
Coel Road  
Cleaners; those who work in the finan-  
cial Sector  
Methodist Churches, especially Lexden  
Methodist Church  
Lexden Primary School  
Those associated with St Leonard's with  
names beginning A

### **Monday**

Bramley Close, Beech Hill and Lexden  
Park  
Medical researchers  
Eastern Orthodox Churches  
Home Farm Primary School  
Those associated with St Leonard's with  
names beginning B

### **Tuesday**

Bramley Court, Beaver Close and  
Lexden Mews  
Those who work in tourism  
Roman Catholic Church, especially St  
Teresa's  
Lexden Springs School  
Those associated with St Leonard's with  
names beginning C

### **Wednesday**

Browning Close, Bawtree Way and  
Lexden Grove  
The unemployed

Old Catholic Church  
Kingswode Hoe School  
Those associated with St Leonard's with  
names beginning D

### **Thursday**

Burns Avenue, Jefferson Close, Tussett  
Mews and Whitefriars Way  
Judges and magistrates  
Taxi and other drivers  
United Reformed Church, and the Mo-  
ravian Church  
Wren House  
Those associated with St Leonard's with  
names beginning E

### **Friday**

Byron Avenue, Acland Avenue, Baines  
Close and Lexden Court  
Those who work in the Computer  
industry; the farming community  
Evangelical Churches  
Hill House  
Those associated with St Leonard's with  
names beginning F

### **Saturday**

The Chantry, Chaucer Way, Alton Drive  
and Keats Road  
Local GPs; local shops  
Presbyterians and Lutherans  
Cheviot Nursing Home  
Those associated with St Leonard's with  
names beginning G

## **Week 2**

### ***Sunday***

All other housing and residences in the parish

Prison Service; those caught in modern slavery

Pentecostal and charismatic churches, and especially Kingsland Church and Praiseway

Woodlands Residential Home

Those associated with St Leonard's with names beginning H

### ***Monday***

Cherry Row, London Road, Lexden Road, and Clairmont Road

Those who work in the media, the internet industry, or in broadcast

Society of Friends

Hargood Close

Those associated with St Leonard's with names beginning I

### ***Tuesday***

Chitts Hill, Wordsworth Road, Wroxham Close, and Church Lane

All seafarers; coastguards

All in the Anglican Communion

Newwhythe

Those associated with St Leonard's with names beginning J

### ***Wednesday***

Christine Chase, Tapwoods, Thompson Avenue and Trafalgar Road

Police; the retired

Salvation Army and Church Army

All other caring institutions, nurseries, and child minders

Those associated with St Leonard's with names beginning K

### ***Thursday***

Hunters Chase, Norman Way, The Chase and The Chase Way

Those who work professional sport or the fitness industry

Coptic Church

Local secondary schools

Those associated with St Leonard's with names beginning L

### ***Friday***

The homeless of the parish and town

Factory workers; those who work in local industry

Baptist Churches

Local colleges

Those associated with St Leonard's with names beginning M

### ***Saturday***

Lockhart Avenue, Llanvalley Road, Hurnard Drive and Straight Road

Those who look after their families

Agricultural workers

Mechanics and those car industry

All parishes in the Deanery of Colchester

The University of Essex

Those associated with St Leonard's with names beginning N

### **Week 3**

#### ***Sunday***

Magazine Farm Way, Sussex Road,  
Hubert Road and Sterling Close  
Those in the hotel, restaurant and hospitality industries  
Methodist Churches, especially Lexden Methodist Church  
Lexden Primary School  
Those associated with St Leonard's with names beginning O

#### ***Monday***

Marlowe Way, Herrick Place and St Clare Road  
Council workers; commuters  
Eastern Orthodox Churches  
Home Farm Primary School  
Those associated with St Leonard's with names beginning P

#### ***Tuesday***

Masefield Drive, Heather Drive and Spring Lane  
Those working from home;  
Politicians; the self-employed  
Roman Catholic Church, especially St Teresa's  
Lexden Springs School  
Those associated with St Leonard's with names beginning Q

#### ***Wednesday***

Mellow Chase, Heath Road, Sheridan Walk, and Oaklands Avenue  
Communications industry; those who work in transport  
Old Catholic Church  
Kingswode Hoe School  
Those associated with St Leonard's with names beginning R

#### ***Thursday***

Milton Close, Halstead Road and Shelley Road  
Shopworkers and those who work in retail; faith leaders  
United Reformed Church, and the Moravian Church  
Wren House  
Those associated with St Leonard's with names beginning S

#### ***Friday***

Mossfield Close, Glen Avenue and Shakespeare Road  
Hospital workers; delivery drivers  
Evangelical Churches  
Hill House  
Those associated with St Leonard's with names beginning T

#### ***Saturday***

The Mount, Fitzwilliam Road and Scott Drive  
Carers; musicians, writers and artists  
Presbyterians and Lutherans  
Cheviot Nursing Home  
Those associated with St Leonard's with names beginning U

## **Week 4**

### ***Sunday***

Nelson Road, Fitzwalter Road and Sanders Drive

Teachers and lecturers; those who work at Universities and colleges  
Pentecostal and charismatic churches, and especially Kingsland Church and Praiseway

Woodlands Residential Home

Those associated with St Leonard's with names beginning V

### ***Monday***

Hargood Close, Firstore Drive and Round Close

Surgeons and consultants; those who work in the gig economy

Society of Friends

Hargood Close

Those associated with St Leonard's with names beginning W

### ***Tuesday***

Endsleigh Court, Richardson Walk, New Kiln Road, and Collingwood Road

Those in the building industry; tradespeople, plumbers and electricians

All in the Anglican Communion

Lexden Springs School

Newhythe

Those associated with St Leonard's with names beginning X

### ***Wednesday***

Elanore Road and Ratcliffe Road

Nurses, midwives, and clinicians

Salvation Army and Church Army

All other caring institutions, nurseries, and child minders

Those associated with St Leonard's with names beginning Y

### ***Thursday***

Deburgh Road and Prettygate Road  
Cleaners; probation service; those in the armed forces; charity workers  
Coptic Church

Local secondary schools

Those associated with St Leonard's with names beginning Z

### ***Friday***

De Vere Road and President Road  
Ambulance service, and paramedics; fire and rescue service

Baptist Churches

Local colleges

Candidates for baptism and confirmation and their families

### ***Saturday***

Cooks Lane, Piper Road, Colvin Close and Parsons Hill

Gardeners; those in the Legal profession; accountants

All parishes in the Deanery of Colchester

The University of Essex

Those preparing to be married at St Leonards, and those to whom we minister for funerals





## Easter 2020 from Lexden Rectory and on BBC TV and Radio

Many of us have greatly enjoyed watching and hearing Matt's wonderful services in our own homes and felt a real sense of fellowship with the St. Leonard's congregation—thank you Matt for all the care, thought, and trouble you went to and for kindly putting the services on YouTube for the benefit of those of us not on Facebook. Thank you also to Siân, Martha and James for all that you contributed, not least the lovely Easter flowers.

Many of us have also been able to enjoy some inspiring and helpful services on Radio and TV. Holy Week began with a beautiful service for Palm Sunday on Radio 4 from the Jesuit church in Farm Street in London's Mayfair. And each morning on Radio 4's 'Thought for the Day' contributors gave us much food for thought on the Passion story. As did the Daily Service, with the addition of beautiful music (R4 longwave Mondays to Fridays 9.45 – 10.00am.) Choral Evensong on Radio 3 on the Wednesday in Holy Week was an archive recording of choral Vespers from Westminster Cathedral with beautiful plainsong and music by Monteverdi.

On Good Friday those of us who love sacred choral music were treated on Radio 3 to Bach's St. John Passion in the afternoon and his St. Matthew Passion in the evening. On Radio 4 there was a half hour Good Friday meditation with some beautiful music and in the evening on Radio 2 there was a two-hour programme 'At the foot of the cross' with a gospel choir and more traditional music and hymns and the story of Holy Week and Easter told by Frank Cottrell Boyce with particular reference to the Beatitudes.

On Holy Saturday on BBC2 we were treated to 'Easter from King's' — a sort of Nine Lessons and Carols for Holy Week and Easter from King's College Cambridge. This was indeed choral singing par excellence. The highlight for me was hearing S. S. Wesley's magnificent Easter anthem

‘Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ’.

Easter Day started with a sunrise service on Radio 4 at 6.30am and, at 8.10am, an Easter eucharist led by the Archbishop of Canterbury (with his wife) from the kitchen of their flat in Lambeth Palace.

This was followed by the Queen’s special Easter message and ‘Tweet of the Day’: the turtledove in which the speaker alluded to the reference to this bird in the Song of Solomon 2: 8. At 11.00am we were privileged to hear (and see) Pope Francis give his traditional Easter message ‘urbi et orbi’ (to the city and the world ) and then a service from an empty Bangor Cathedral with Easter hymns from an Easter Songs of Praise recorded last year. At 1.30pm on Radio 4 we had ‘Three vicars talking’ with three clerical broadcasters — the Revds Kate Bottley, Richard Coles and Giles Fraser—talking about the strangeness of this Easter and remembering happier Easters from the past. (It was also nice that Kate Bottley was asked to do Radio 4’s ‘Pick of the Week’ that day).

Finally, on Radio 3 we were treated to an archive recording of Easter Day Choral Evensong from Norwich Cathedral and a second chance to hear ‘Blessed be the God and Father’.

Thank you everyone for making Easter in Lockdown so special and memorable.

**Hugh Beavan**





# Gardening Diary

## **28 March**

A quiet time in the lockdown. Roads are quiet. Hardly any pedestrians and rarely a dog being taken on a walk. No cats seen for ages. Three of my five birdboxes have busy, bluetits flying in and out. Due to climate change they are nesting before the beech trees come into leaf. So they miss out on the green caterpillars that eat the leaves.

My tortoise still finds it too cold so wanders round the loggia briefly and goes back to bed. Hopefully the night frosts will end soon so my bedding plants can go out to be potted on.



Two of my elderly neighbours wanted some colour to look at so they selected the containers they liked. The most popular were the blue flowering grape hyacinths. The front garden looks OK. Missing are the bluebells as they are not ready to flower so still in the back garden.

## **31 March**

Garden centres may be thinking of composting unsold plants. I have contacted my local garden centre offering to plant them up for locked in elderly neighbours and local care homes.



## **4 April**

I collected a car full of bedding plants generously donated by the closed Stanway Garden Centre (Was Wyevale) . They including primroses, pansies, violas and various varieties of grape hyacinths. Today I finished planting 36 buckets and tomor-

row they will be going to the elderly and care homes in isolation near me. Lots of plastic pots to add to my extensive pot library.

### **19 April**

I normally put out wooden rectangular planters in public areas but really liked the flexibility of hexagonal planters. Could be maintenance free if I cast concrete sections with vertical wire ties.

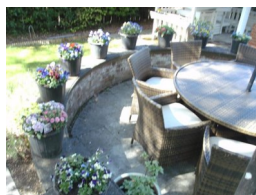


### **21 April**

I collected a second car load of plants donated by the generous Stanway Garden centre now temporarily closed.

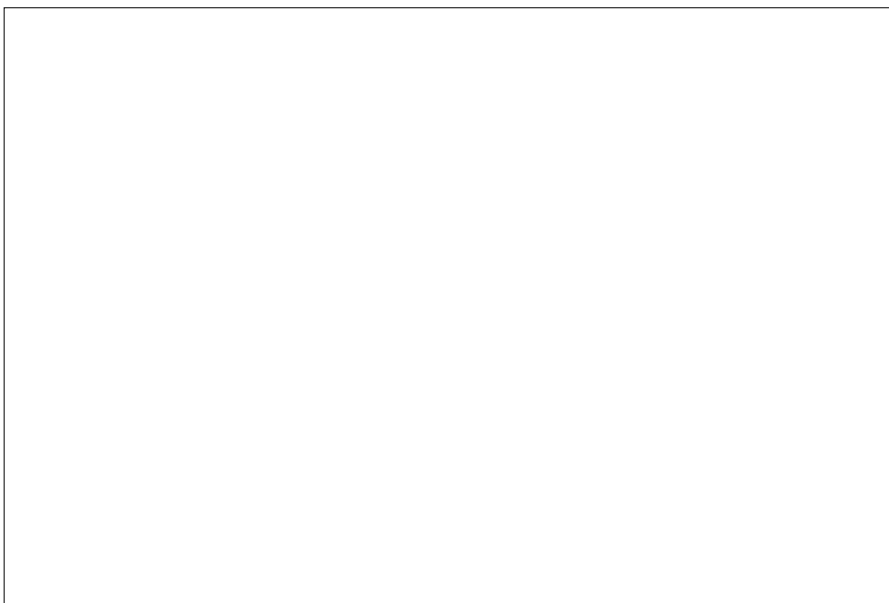
Fourteen houses with elderly in isolation got an orchid and also the cute campanulas in baskets. The campanula is a modern variety with better flowering than the one normally seen. I have kept a record of addresses so when the initial flowering is over I can supply notes on optimum conditions. I keep orchids in their transparent pots as the roots appreciate light and add a surrounding tray to increase humidity ensuring no residual water under the plant pot.

In total fifty buckets of bedding plants have been distributed to three nursing homes and elderly homes isolating. Two care homes had empty pots/planters so I put in my point of flower yellow marigolds. So many happy people with cheerful plants they can see from the window.



### **Andy Hamilton**

Follow Andy's gardening progress on his Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Blooming-Colchester-564285567085224>



## **A WAY TO HELP: could you make scrubs?**



If you have needlework skills (and many at St Leonard's do), could you put them to work to help with the effort to address the shortfall in Personal Protection Equipment for our frontline NHS staff.?

To read more about how you could get involved, visit:

<http://www.colchesteripswichcharity.org.uk/cv19staffwellbeing/scrubs/>

If you have friends who might be interested, but won't see this because they don't use the internet - why not let them know by phone?



## Poets' Corner

### **Love (III) by George Herbert (1593-1632)**

Love bade me welcome. Yet my soul drew back

Guilty of dust and sin.

But quick-eyed Love, observing me grow slack

From my first entrance in,

Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning,

If I lacked any thing.

A guest, I answered, worthy to be here:

Love said, You shall be he.

I the unkind, ungrateful? Ah my dear,

I cannot look on thee.

Love took my hand, and smiling did reply,

Who made the eyes but I?

Truth Lord, but I have marred them: let my shame

Go where it doth deserve.

And know you not, says Love, who bore the blame?

My dear, then I will serve.

You must sit down, says Love, and taste my meat:

So I did sit and eat.



# SUNDAY WORSHIP

Live-streamed on

**[www.facebook.com/stleonardslexden](https://www.facebook.com/stleonardslexden)** at 9.45am.

Available later on Sunday on YouTube: **[https://  
www.youtube.com/channel/UCADkA2TZE5GP6CBZbmJrwdQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCADkA2TZE5GP6CBZbmJrwdQ)**

Download the readings, hymn and prayers here: **[http://  
tiny.cc/2u3inz](http://tiny.cc/2u3inz)**

Download the Order of Service here: **[http://  
www.stleonardslexden.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/  
Easter-Season-Eucharist-final-online.pdf](http://www.stleonardslexden.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Easter-Season-Eucharist-final-online.pdf)**

# PRAYER

Join us in daily prayer using the words here:

**[https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-  
service-daily-prayer](https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer)**

Morning Prayer: 9am on Mon, Tues, Thurs-Sat

Evening Prayer: 5pm every day.

We try to live stream morning prayer on Mondays, and Evening prayer on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at:

**[www.facebook.com/stleonardslexden](https://www.facebook.com/stleonardslexden)**

Download the St Leonard's Prayer book here: **[http://  
www.stleonardslexden.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/St-  
Leonards-Prayer-Book-WEB.pdf](http://www.stleonardslexden.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/St-Leonards-Prayer-Book-WEB.pdf)**

EMAIL US with PRAYER REQUESTS:  
**[prayer@stleonardslexden.org.uk](mailto:prayer@stleonardslexden.org.uk)**