



# THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST LEONARD, LEXDEN

ORDINARY PEOPLE. EXTRAORDINARY GOD.



PARISH MAGAZINE

JUNE-JULY 2023 £1.00



**Reflection given at the conclusion of the  
Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 30<sup>th</sup>  
April 2023**

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of April, I made the mischievous claim that below the removed floorboards at the back of St Leonard's nave, we had found some treasure: the bones of the long lost, Saint Anway. I suggested this local saint had given his name to Stanway and was patron saint of all things that could be wound up (such as balls of string).

Beneath the unfortunate April Fool's humour, there is – I believe – an important story for us:

When we are forced by circumstances to strip things back, with God there is always some treasure to be found. Found and then shared!

Recently, we have had no option but to strip things back – quite literally in the case of our nave floor. But this “stripping back” has also been known through the tail end of the pandemic, the death of the Queen, many of our personal circumstances, upheavals in the Church of England and nation, and a cost-of-living crisis.

Many aspects of the lives of those who reside in our parish have experienced some sort of “stripping back” too.

There is, however, a sense that in stripping back we are freed: freed to focus on the core of our callings and gifts. That is the *real* treasure that can be found and shared in testing times.

We saw in 2022 that the stripping back of so much during the lockdowns, and the consequent focus on the very youngest in our community, is now bearing fruit in a very busy parent and toddler group and increasingly busy Messy Church, Brick Club and other activities for younger people. We have also seen 11 people come

forward to be confirmed, many of whom are new to our church. The growth in attendance of adults in their 30s and 40s is a particularly encouraging time.

So this time of change for our nation and community is a time for us to double down on spreading the Good News of Christ Jesus. It is a time to see each one of us – *every* member of Christ's body in Lexden as bringers of salt and light! A time to see every person in the parish as beloved by God – whether or not they yet realise it!

So do not be demoralised when times of “stripping back” come – be energised and filled with hope – attend to the treasure of the Gospel in your hearts so that together we can continue to share it.

St Leonard's does – and will continue to – make a tremendous difference to the community of Lexden – to the glory of God.

Matt

# JUNE-JULY DIARY

## Thursday 1st June

8.00am Eucharist

2:30pm Bereavement Support Group in the Nicholls Room

## Saturday 3rd June

8.30am Men's Breakfast in the Nicholls Room

10:30am Coffee Morning in aid of Royal Marsden Hospital Charity

## **SUNDAY 4th June Trinity Sunday**

**8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**9.45am ALL AGE EUCHARIST**

## Tuesday 6th June

10.30am Holy Communion at Wren House

7.30pm 'Medley' house group (Rosemary 515245)

## Wednesday 7th June

9:30am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee

11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

10.45am Holy Communion at Woodlands

11.30am Holy Communion at Cheviot

## Thursday 8th June

8.00am Eucharist

## **SUNDAY 11th June Barnabas the Apostle**

**9.45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church**

**3:00pm Messy Church**

**5.30pm Evensong and Sermon**

## Wednesday 14th June

9:30am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee

11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

## Thursday 15th June

8.00am Eucharist

2:30pm Bereavement Support Group in the Nicholls Room

## Saturday 17th June

8.30am Women's Breakfast in the Nicholls Room

**SUNDAY 18th June 2nd Sunday after Trinity**

**8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**9.45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church**

**Wednesday 21st June**

9:30am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee

11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

**Thursday 22nd June**

8.00am Eucharist

**Friday 23rd June**

10:00am Church open for Fete Donations

**Saturday 24th June**

11:30am Summer Fete

**SUNDAY 25th June 3rd Sunday after Trinity**

**9.45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church**

**5:30pm Eucharist for Wholeness & Healing**

**Wednesday 28th June**

9:30am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee

11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

**Thursday 29th June**

8.00am Eucharist

**Saturday 1st July**

8.30am Men's Breakfast in the Nicholls Room

1:00pm Wedding of Ryan and Eloise in Church

**SUNDAY 2nd July Feast of St Thomas**

**8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**9.45am ALL AGE EUCHARIST**

**5:30pm An Evening with the Psalms**

**Tuesday 4th July**

10.30am Holy Communion at Wren House

**Wednesday 5th July**

9:30am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee

11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

11.30am Holy Communion at Cheviot

Thursday 6th July  
8.00am Eucharist

**SUNDAY 9th July 5th Sunday after Trinity**  
**9.45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church**  
**5.30pm Evensong and Sermon**

Wednesday 12th July  
9:30am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall  
10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee  
11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

Thursday 13th July  
8.00am Eucharist

Saturday 15th July  
8.30am Women's Breakfast in the Nicholls Room

**SUNDAY 16th July 6th Sunday after Trinity**  
**9.45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church**

Wednesday 19th July  
9:30am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall  
10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee  
11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

Thursday 20th July  
8.00am Eucharist

**SUNDAY 23rd July Mary Magdalene**  
**9.45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church**

Wednesday 26th July  
10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee

Thursday 27th July  
8.00am Eucharist

**SUNDAY 30th July Mary, Martha and Lazarus**  
**9.45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church**  
**5.30pm Evensong and Sermon**



# MOUSE TAILS

St. Leonard's mouse community has seen many changes over the last few years. Because of the pandemic, the Church and Hall were closed to humans and therefore the mice could no longer forage for tasty bits of food in either place and had to look further afield for food for many months. The most affected were the Church and Hall mouse families, the Outdoor and Woods families carried on as usual. After several months, the 'Church' and Hall' families had a meeting to discuss the problem. In the end the Halls decided to stay and join forces with the 'Outdoors' whilst most of the 'Churches' decided to go and live with their Wood cousins where Mother nature had continued to provide as usual, in fact, with no humans (or their dogs) were invading the woods, produce was more plentiful.

From the Church, the Balconies, Under Stairs, Organ and Flower Room mice gathered up such scant belongings as they had and loaded up the sledge ( made many years ago by Grandad) and using their underground tunnel made their way to the woods.

On arrival they were met by their Woods cousins, who were thrilled to see them and welcomed everyone into their homes. Many of the mice had never ventured into the woods before and were a little bit nervous but the 'young-uns' were excited and thrilled with this adventure.

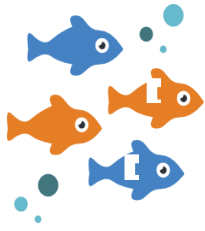
Without humans the wood was much safer and eerily quieter than it had ever been. Once all the families had chosen a place to build their nests and set up temporary homes, they all assembled to catch up on each other's news, meet new additions and mourn those they had

*(continued on page 10)*

# Messy Fishing!

Sunday 11th June at 3pm

at St Leonard's Church



Games  
Crafts  
Songs  
Food



Children must be accompanied by an adult. Please email to let us know you are coming:



*(continued from page 8)*

lost. None of them had much but happily contributed what they had or could quickly gather and produced a tasty feast (something that all mice enjoy. The Woods generously gave the most and produced some acorn beer and elderflower wine, promising their guests that they would share the recipes handed down from their grandparents. Once they were all full and getting a bit tipsy the mice shared stories of their predecessors and some of their adventures, whilst the little ones raced about playing hide and seek and discovering new things with the knowledgeable Woods cousins warning them of hidden dangers - like which berries they could eat and which would kill them!. Young Timmy Organ had inherited his Grandads miniature mouth Organ and entertained them with well known, favorite tunes. So, instead of it being a sad reunion, it turned into a jolly time for all. Many of the youngest mice were worn out and had nodded off in some strange places whereupon the Mums rounded up their offspring and headed for bed. Soon all that could be heard was the rustle of leaves and gentle snuffling as they dreamt of more adventures to come. **CT**





## **All You Need is Love**

### **A homily based on John 15.9-11**

‘All you need is love,’ sang the Beatles in 1967. In the song they claim that in order to achieve anything in life, all you need is love. They also wrote She Loves You, Love Me Do, Can’t Buy me Love, and several other songs with the word Love in the title. And according to the internet, the word Love occurs in their song lyrics a total of 613 times.

Apart from that one song though, I’m pretty sure that all the other references are to romantic love, the kind which would have preoccupied the young people who were likely to buy the Beatles’ records. But in that one exception, which to be honest mostly consists of an endlessly repeated chorus of the words, All you need is love, they offer love as the solution to all the world’s problems; they even sing, ‘It’s easy.’

But in a way, that undermines the credibility of their message. Love isn’t easy. The solution to all the world’s problems isn’t easy. Love for a person, for a stranger, for the environment, and for ourselves as God’s precious children, is more than just a strong feeling. If it’s just a sentiment expressed, it leads us nowhere.

Love is a course of action, a lifestyle. And the love of which Jesus is speaking makes no claim to be easy. If we were to continue reading today’s gospel for another two verses, Jesus goes on to say, ‘Love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.’

We hear those words every year on Remembrance Sunday, when we honour the ultimate sacrifice of so many, but I don’t think we have to

assume that Jesus is saying we actually have to die for each other. But we do have to set aside our own lives of self-interest, and concentrate on the lives of others, as he did. And unlike John Lennon, I don't claim that it's easy.

Jesus makes it clear that when he talks about love, he means a deep, life-governing love, love which is not casually expressed or lightly worn, but which is sincere, heartfelt and constant, a total commitment to following his commandment that we love one another as he has loved us. That means love expressed in reaching out to our neighbours, in small acts of kindness, in supporting those who are struggling or less fortunate than we are. As Archbishop Justin said in his sermon at the coronation, 'Service is love in action.'

Jesus says, 'As the Father has loved, me, so have I loved you; abide in my love.' He calls us to *abide* in his love. Our whole existence, everything we think and do, is to be grounded in him. It may not be easy, but it's really the only way to find fulfilment and peace. Jesus assures us, 'I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.'

So, if we are to live as his disciples, love *is* all we need.

Amen.

Viv gave us this homily at the 8am Eucharist on 11th May and Matt felt it needed sharing with a wider audience.

Please consider joining us at 8am on a Thursday if you can, it is a wonderful, peaceful way to start the day and you would be most welcome.

# FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

## FUNERALS

30th May  
**Joyce Jones**

*'Rest in peace, and rise in glory.'*

## BAPTISMS

16th May  
**Beau Brown**  
**Molly Brown**  
**Ivy Sermons**  
**Rebecca Sorapure**  
**Sarah Tearle**  
**Wayne Tearle**

*'One Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all.'*

## CONFIRMATIONS

16th May  
**Amy Adams**  
**Beau Brown**  
**Molly Brown**  
**Timothy Gaul**  
**Jonny Gardner**  
**Charlotte Nottage**  
**Ivy Sermons**  
**James Simpkins**  
**Sarah Tearle**  
**Wayne Tearle**  
**Phoebe Webber**

*'God has called you by name and made you his own.'*

## **Baptism and Confirmations 16th May 2023**

It was wonderful to be able to join at St Leonard's with Christchurch and witness the baptism and confirmation of so many candidates.

Bishop Roger presided over a moving and joyful service and it was lovely to see the Church so full of people from a wide range of ages.

Congratulations to Beau, Molly, Ivy, Rebecca, Sarah, Wayne, Amy, Jonny, Tim, Alice, George, Charlotte, James, Naomi and Phoebe. Welcome to your new Church family.

Thank you to Liz and Amy for the beautiful flowers and Kathleen and her team for the refreshments, also to the music group for their wonderful accompaniment and the choir for beautiful anthem.



## St Leonard's Baby and Toddler Group

Hello from the Baby and Toddler Group! For readers who haven't heard of us before, we offer a relaxed and friendly group for babies, toddlers and their carers, meeting in the hall each Wednesday morning during term time. We run two identical sessions each Wednesday, one from 9.30 – 10.30am and the second from 11.00am until noon.

Each week we offer play and craft activities based on a theme. Sometimes our themes are based on well-known traditional stories or rhymes. We also look for opportunities to make links with the seasons and the natural world. We try to be creative in our planning, but the most popular activities are often the simplest ones – a tray of water and squirty bottles, a cardboard box with a steering wheel or a big lump of playdough and a rolling pin!

Midway through the session we have a snack time. The adults really appreciate having a drink and a biscuit made for them and of course the little ones are always on the lookout for something yummy! There are always lots of opportunities for everyone to chat and to make new friends. It is lovely to see these friendships flourish and in the better weather the nearby park and woods provide a beautiful space to join with others to have a picnic after the session.

We usually finish the sessions with songs and rhymes and find that this is a really good way to develop speaking and listening skills and sends everyone away on a happy note! Recently we have introduced our Singing Bag which is full of objects that will help us to extend our repertoire of rhymes. The children love being asked to choose an object from the bag.

We work together as a team to provide the sessions and get to know the children and adults well. This means that if families join in

church activities they will always find a familiar face ready to welcome them. We have had two really enjoyable church celebrations led by Maggie at Christmas and for Mothering Sunday. We also invite everyone to our Messy Church events, and it has been great to meet our families again in this setting.

So, if you do have babies and / or toddlers in your care on a Wednesday morning you are very welcome to join us. There is no need to book, and you will find more information on our Facebook page. We can guarantee you will have an entertaining time!

**St Leonard’s Baby and Toddler Group Team**



## ***JUNE AND JULY***

<b>11<sup>th</sup> June Love in action</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup> June Love in action</b>
<b>Messy Fishing ! 3pm in the hall</b>	<b>Messy Fishing ! 3pm in the hall</b>
<b>18<sup>th</sup> June Keep it simple</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup> June Keep it simple</b>
<b>25<sup>th</sup> June Bursting to tell</b>	<b>25<sup>th</sup> June Bursting to tell</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> July All Age Service</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> July All Age Service</b>
<b>9<sup>th</sup> July It’s no yoke!</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup> July It’s no yoke!</b>
<b>16<sup>th</sup> July Still Sowing</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup> July Still Sowing</b>
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> July Grow where you are planted</b>	<b>23<sup>rd</sup> July Grow where you are planted</b>
Junior Church will be taking a summer break but will be back on 10 <sup>th</sup> September. <b>17<sup>th</sup> September Messy Church 3pm</b>	Junior Church will be taking a summer break but will be back on 10 <sup>th</sup> September. <b>17<sup>th</sup> September Messy Church 3pm</b>

## **Note from the Editor.**

It has been three years since St Leonards last published its magazine, for reasons we all know and understand. The dark days of March 2020 have gone and now we are returning to some degree of normality even though COVID is still with us. Sad to say like colds and the flu it is here to stay but thanks to the efforts of scientists, doctors, and nurses we have some degree of protection thanks to vaccinations and a growing natural immunity.

Shutting the Church due to COVID caused great disruption but slowly our congregation is beginning to increase and with the use of technology you can now watch services on Facebook. Meetings can be held on Zoom in fact my first confirmation meeting was a Zoom call. By the time this magazine is published we will have seen the confirmation of 11 members of our church, a positive sign for the future.

We have much to look forward to, the Summer Fete is almost upon us, the church should be getting its new floor after the water leak that threatened to shut us down again although we do have the church hall if needed. Weddings, Christenings, coffee mornings and many other things are planned so watch this space.

### **MAGAZINE DEADLINE**

Final day for items for the AUGUST edition:

**SUNDAY 9TH JULY**

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





Coronation Lunch 6th May 2023

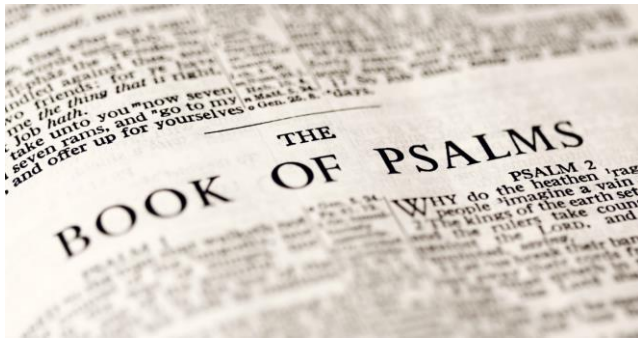
On Sunday 7th May around 35 of us gathered in the Church hall following the Celebration Eucharist to mark the Coronation of King Charles III for a lovely ploughman's lunch.

Thanks must go to Linda, Mike, Esther, Joan and Peter for all their hard work pulling things together and preparing the food. Thank you also to everyone who donated cakes and to the Men's breakfast crew who allowed us to use their bowls and glasses. And, of course, thanks to all those who came and helped us celebrate this historic occasion in such a lovely way.

A good time was had by all!







AN EVENING WITH THE PSALMS  
SUNDAY 2ND JULY: 5:30

Come and join Simon and the choir in an exploration of the psalms in the peace and quiet of St Leonard's on a summer's evening.

Following our study of Psalm 22 during this year's Lent Course there was a desire to engage more with the Book of Psalms and all that they hold in expressing the human emotions.

*"The Psalms have always held a central place in Christian devotion and worship. This is also true for the Jewish faith. The Psalms are the prayer book of the Bible. Perhaps the hymnbook too."*

Stephen Cottrell -Archbishop of York

Join our journey with the Psalms.

Maggie

## **Update from the Fabric Committee**

As soon as we could the fabric committee began to catch up on all the jobs that were not possible due to COVID. One of the first jobs we tackled was to look at the lights in the church. Some of the light bulbs had blown and in some cases the lamp shades were missing. As you can imagine this was a difficult task due to the height involved, also those light shades are not cheap so a breakage could be disastrous. In the end all the bulbs were changed to LED lights and shades replaced. Most people didn't notice the change although some did remark that the church seemed brighter. Moving on, the lighting outside of the church has been upgraded with new lighting around the footpaths. Also, it was noted that one of the Manhole covers had rotted away due to a build-up of vegetation. This was a serious health and Safety issue and only came to light as the churchyard was cleared up after the three-year hiatus. Thankfully there were no injuries, and the cover was replaced with one of cast iron.

It has been well recorded that the church suffered a severe water leak due to a heating pipe breaking down, following the installation of two new heating boilers. The new boilers were not the problem, if anyone was responsible it was the late Victorian builders who put in the original heating system, they did not understand that you cannot conceal steel or cast-iron pipes in concrete. It is something that is becoming apparent in many older buildings of that period. The pipe that caused the problem looked like a cullender and can be seen at the back of the church. Of course, this happened through the coldest part of the year, and it was extremely cold in church without any heat. Once the builders got to work it was only a few days before heat was restored. Great! but the adage you can only please people some of the time rang true as we were told it was too hot when the heat was restored. At present we are waiting for the soil at the back of the church to dry out, this is taking longer than expected so it has been decided to bring in industrial de-humidifiers to speed up the

drying process. Once the moisture content in the soil is within tolerances the builders can restore the flooring.

There is still much to do, and we will be looking for help to carry out some the areas raised in the Quinquennial report. This includes re-staining much of the woodwork and some painting jobs. There are larger jobs to do but these involve scaffolding and need qualified technicians.



View of the Work at Rear of Church

# REGULAR SERVICES

**Sunday**            **8.00am 1662 BCP Holy Communion** (1st & 3rd Sundays)

**9.45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church**  
**Or All Age Eucharist** (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in the month)

**5.30pm Evensong and Sermon** (2nd Sunday)

**5.30pm Eucharist for Wholeness & Healing** (4th Sunday)

**Monday**            8:45am Morning Prayer

**Tuesday**           8:45am Morning Prayer

**Wednesday**      10.00am Eucharist

**Thursday**          8.00am Eucharist

Please check the diary in this magazine for occasional variations