



THE PARISH CHURCH OF
ST LEONARD, LEXDEN

ORDINARY PEOPLE. EXTRAORDINARY GOD.



PARISH MAGAZINE

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2024 £1.00



Love came down at Christmas

Happy New Year! I am writing this during Advent, which begins the New Year in the Church calendar. Our year starts with a quiet and contemplative four weeks looking forward to Christ's coming into the world. But during December the Christmas celebrations began at St Leonard's: a joyful Messy Nativity was attended by over forty children and their parents, there were at Carols at the Crown and the service of Nine Lessons and Carols, and the Baby and Toddler groups and local schools were welcomed into church to hear the Christmas story. Throughout Advent our lovely churchyard crib scene could be seen by passers-by on Lexden Road, and everyone enjoyed the St Leonard's Christmas Market. All these things required a great deal of organisation, time and effort, and at St Leonard's we are so blessed to have such gifted people among us whose love for God manifests in generosity, creativity and hard work.

By the time you read this, Christmas Day will have come, more carols will have been sung, presents exchanged, mince pies eaten, and I give thanks that, for the hundreds attending our Christmas services, coming to church is important. Now it's time to look forward to 2024. What is in store for us? The world we are living in seems, more than ever, to be shaky and full of uncertainties: wars rage on, global warming continues unchecked, there is upheaval and discord within our country's government, the cost of living rises and the health services struggle. The future feels insecure and beyond our control.

But Christmas isn't over on 25th December; that day marks a beginning, not an end. When Jesus was born the world entered a new age: God had come to live among us. At Christmas we remember the birth of a baby to a teenage mother, in difficult circumstances, far from home. Mary faced a hard and uncertain future from the moment the angel told her she would bear God's Son; Joseph could expect a challenging future as Jesus's adoptive earthly father; and the holy family were embracing an unknown future when they fled to another country to escape persecution and danger.

And yet we rejoice. We celebrate this story of love: the love of Mary and Joseph for one another and for their holy Child, their love of God, and their trust in him. We celebrate because God loved us so much that, when he saw that we were getting things wrong, he came into the world to save us from ourselves. God created us in love and sent Jesus to show us what love means. It is that love which we celebrate each Christmas, and which we can rely on throughout the year, assured that God's love never ceases. Knowing that, we go can forward in hope and in his strength. To paraphrase, Jesus is for life, not just for Christmas.

May you have a blessed New Year.

Viv

FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to our New Year edition of the Parish Magazine and could I begin by wishing everyone a Happy New Year and hope you had a very enjoyable Christmas.

In this edition we look back at some of the events that took place during December. There are reports on our Christmas Market, Messy Nativity, OMG Sleepout and the Baby and Toddler Christmas party and a wonderful history of the Lexden Ladies Group from Margaret Howard.

Please take time to read the article on how to prevent personal fraud. Several of our friends have been caught out by scammers and this is useful guidance on how to protect yourself from those who wish to steal from you.

By the time you read this we will have welcomed hundreds of people through our doors to school carol concerts as well as our many Christmas services. Thank you to the many people to make this happen, the Clergy team for leading our worship and to all the many volunteers who give up their time to support the work of the Church at this time of year. We couldn't do it without you!

Best Wishes

Mike.

JANUARY-FEBRUARY DIARY

Tuesday 2nd January

11:30am Holy Communion at Cheviot

Wednesday 3rd January

10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee

10:45am Holy Communion at Woodlands

Thursday 4th January

8.00am Eucharist

Saturday 6th January

8:30am Men's Breakfast (booking essential)

SUNDAY 7th January – The Epiphany

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9.45am ALL AGE EUCHARIST

Wednesday 10th January

9:30am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee

11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

Thursday 11th January

8.00am Eucharist

Saturday 13th January

12:00pm Friendship Lunch

SUNDAY 14th January 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

9.45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church

5.30pm Evensong & Sermon

Monday 13th November

7:00pm Eucharist

7:45pm PCC Meeting

Wednesday 17th January

9:30am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee

11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

Thursday 18th January

8.00am Eucharist

Saturday 20th January

8:30am Women's Breakfast

SUNDAY 21st January 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9:45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church

Wednesday 24th January

9:30am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee

11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

Thursday 25th January

8.00am Eucharist

SUNDAY 28th January Candlemas

9.45am ALL AGE CHRISTINGLE Celebration Eucharist

5.30pm Eucharist for Wholeness & Healing

Wednesday 31st January

9:30am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee

11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

Thursday 1st February

8.00am Eucharist

Saturday 3rd February

8:30am Men's Breakfast

SUNDAY 4th February 2nd Sunday before Lent

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9.45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church

Tuesday 6th February

11:30am Holy Communion at Cheviot

7.30pm 'Medley' house group (Rosemary 515245)

Wednesday 7th February

9:30am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee

10:45am Holy Communion at Woodlands

11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

Thursday 8th February

8.00am Eucharist

Saturday 10th February

12:00pm Friendship Lunch

SUNDAY 11th February Sunday next before Lent

9.45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church

3:00pm Messy Pancakes

5.30pm Evensong & Sermon

Wednesday 14th February

9:30am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

10.00am Eucharist with Ashes

11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

7:30pm Eucharist with Ashes

Thursday 15th February

8.00am Eucharist

Saturday 17th February

8:30am Women's Breakfast

SUNDAY 18th February 1st Sunday of Lent

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9:45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church

Wednesday 21st February

10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee

11:00am Lent Course

7:00pm Lent Course

Thursday 22nd February

8.00am Eucharist

SUNDAY 25th February 2nd Sunday of Lent

9.45am ALL AGE CHRISTINGLE Celebration Eucharist

5.30pm Eucharist for Wholeness & Healing

Wednesday 28th February

9:30am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee

11:00am Lent Course

11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

7:00pm Lent Course

Thursday 29th February

8.00am Eucharist



LENT 2024

A time for reflection, fasting and giving...

Ash Wednesday 2024 is on 14th February and following that we will be running a Lent Course looking at “Women of the New Testament.”

The course will take place in the Nicholls room on Wednesdays and the time and dates are as follows:

21st February - 11:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

28th February - 11:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

6th March - 11:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

13th March - 11:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

20th March - 11:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Further details will follow nearer the time.

If anyone has a particular woman they would like to study or even lead one of the evenings then please speak to either Maggie, Viv, or Jacquie.

On the evening of Palm Sunday, the 24th of March at 5:30 p.m. there will be a contemplative Taize Service.

God bless,

Rev. Maggie

A HISTORY OF LEXDEN YOUNG WIVES AND LEXDEN LADIES 1952-2020



The Queen celebrated her Diamond Jubilee in 2022, as did the Lexden Young Wives/Lexden Ladies Group. To mark the occasion, the Queen sent a letter of congratulations to the group. For more than 60 years members have been an integral part of life at St Leonard's.

The archives prior to 1973 are sketchy but we do know that the Young Wives group was started by a number of young mothers, led by Katie Davey, in 1952 when the Revd. Dolph was rector. Meetings were held in the old parish hall on the corner of Nelson Road and in a number of homes until April 1970 when the new hall was built behind the Church. Katie served as leader from 1952-59 when she was succeeded by Brenda Brown (1959-64), June Travis (1964-68) and Maureen Yeates (1968-74). Over the years there have been 15 different leaders until 1998 when Barbara Cole led for 12 years, followed finally by Margaret Howard.

By 1959 there must have been a number of Young Wives groups in the deanery as, on June 23rd 1959, a Deanery festival service was held in St Leonard's, conducted by Revd. D.R Tassell MA, rector for Lexden. Leaders were commissioned during the service and a collection was taken for the Deanery Library Fund. Afterwards, tea was served at Lexden rectory in Glen Avenue. The Young Wives group was affiliated to the Mother's Union, and it is understood that leaders were required to be members of the MU. In the annual reports from the leaders thanks were always recorded to the rector and the enrolling member of the MU for their support.

In the archives there are details of the programmes for each year from 1974-2020 with speakers, outings, the annual Carol service with the

MU and at each AGM, in Revd. Marshall's time, there was a discussion on topical subjects or a Brains Trust, in which a panel tried to answer questions from the audience. In 1965 there were 80 members and by the following year there were 107 with outings to London for shopping and theatre, seaside outings and parties for children. Members also volunteered to babysit for other mums to give them a break and there were coffee mornings in members' homes. Members giving birth were presented with a rose bush and there were working parties for sewing, packing, and painting decorations.

In 1979 there is mention of a Seven Rivers Cheshire Home Christmas party which had become an annual event with the legendary concert party providing the entertainment afterwards. In 1964 the Christmas dinner cost £18.11.8d and by 2001 the cost was almost £200. It was usual for the rector to carve the turkey. During the year, some members visited the home on a rota to help with sewing and to write letters for the residents. Birthday cards and gifts were sent with funds raised throughout the year, mainly from proceeds of a Christmas catalogue, and members help at the Home's annual fete giving all proceeds from their stall to the Home. The last concert party was in 1991 but the Christmas dinner continued until 2003. When the home was contacted the following year to confirm arrangements the group was told it would not be worthwhile as only 8 of the 25 residents were able to eat normal food. So ended the long association with Seven Rivers.

For many years members helped out at the Lion Walk Day Centre under Brenda Cant's supervision. This continued until 2009 when it became impossible to recruit new members. It was also a fact that most of the customers were younger than the helpers!

In 1983 it was suggested at the AGM that the name "Young Wives" should change to "Lexden Ladies". The Revd. Peter Marshall thought

that the word "Group" should be added otherwise it might be taken for a public convenience! By changing the name, it was possible to recruit members from a wider circle; many mothers were returning to work as their children became older and there were fewer volunteers to serve on the committee or take up the role of leader. Frances Bonner took on the role for one year but stayed for three! The group was then in grave danger of collapsing with membership at meetings between 15 and 20 people. Doreen Demant took over in 1985 for 3 years and was followed by Barbara Cole who was leader for an incredible 12 years as there was no-one else volunteering to succeed her. With the help of a small committee Barbara organised a celebration to mark the Group's 50th Golden Jubilee in 2002. There was a service in Church led by the Revd. Stephen Carter followed by afternoon tea in the hall. 86 members, former members and friends attended reminiscing about days gone by. A special anniversary cake was cut by the first leader, Katie Davey.

In 2006 Lexden Ladies Group appeared on the Church website and in 2010 meetings were moved to the Nicholls room in the newly built extension. There was a small revival in membership as ladies no longer had to negotiate the slope up to the hall. Membership fluctuated between 29 to 34 members with visitors at most meetings. Various speakers entertained members in addition to an annual outing and New Year lunches. There was fundraising to support local charities as well as a Christmas service with the MU in December.

The membership was ageing with some having difficulty in accessing the Nicholls Room. Meetings were moved from evenings to afternoons, which most members preferred. A questionnaire was circulated to all members to try and find a way forward. It was agreed to move to a less formal structure with coffee mornings, tea afternoons in local venues and in members' homes with occasional speakers. There was no membership fee, and the bank account was closed. Minutes were no

longer taken and there was no AGM, therefore it was not necessary to have a treasurer or secretary. There was still the problem of finding volunteers even though everyone wanted the group to continue. In the end, Margaret Howard stepped forward and volunteered to act as coordinator.

Planning was in progress for the 60th Diamond anniversary celebrations. On Tuesday 6th November 2012 there was a service of thanksgiving in St Leonard's, led by Revd. Teresa Wynne and followed by afternoon tea in the hall. Approximately 60 members and former members attended. It was agreed that a permanent memorial to the Lexden Young Wives and Ladies group would be appropriate, and a commemorative bench was purchased and sited on the slope to the hall for all to see and use.

From 2012 the group continued under Margaret's leadership, meeting in its more informal mode, still with a summer garden party at 6 Scott Drive, the home of Christine and Brian Moore, various outings, a variety of speakers and fundraising events. In March 2020, with the help of Sue Lewis, a ukelele concert was arranged in the Church. This was a wonderful uplifting occasion, thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended, and raised over £200 which was donated to CAP.

Little were we to know that this would be our final meeting. Within a few days we were in lockdown; Churches and other meeting places were closed as COVID ravaged the country and the world leaving many, including some of our members, very sick with several deaths. Visitors were not allowed in hospitals or care homes, so residents became isolated and confused. 2020 became an incredibly sad end for the group. It is unlikely that Lexden Ladies will ever be revived but we remember with love all former members who contributed to its success over 60 years. The archives will be stored in the Church for future generations. **Margaret Howard**



A Carer's Call

It all started when I went out for coffee with a parishioner who cares for a family member at home...

All they wanted was for someone to listen, to offload some of their frustrations and to share time with someone different.

It got me to thinking that there must be many members of the congregation who are in the same boat and that, as a church community, we should be supporting them if possible. Not by organising a regular, formal meeting but by being at the end of a phone so people can just talk or arrange to go out with someone for coffee and a chat.

The idea is very much in its initial stages of development, but I believe that it can grow into something special.

If you are someone who would like to be able to contact our '**Carer's Call**' or someone who would like to be considered as a listener, then please contact me on: maggie@stleonardslexden.org.uk. Confidentiality is ensured.

Please pray for this project.

Lord,

For those who are caregivers to friends and family, may they feel your love and your sustaining power. May they feel less frustrated and experience less guilt for the very human feelings they may have about wanting to escape their tasks. May they find us eager to support them during their difficult times.

Amen

PCC Charities for 2023-24

At the November PCC meeting it was agreed that the following charities should receive our support this year. Each charity will receive a donation of £1000.

- Colchester Foodbank
- Korban (helps homeless young adults in Colchester)
- OMF (overseas mission)
- CYO (Christian Youth Outreach)
- Youth Enquiry Service (Adolescent mental health charity)
- English for Women (Educational charity for female refugees)
- Next Chapter (Women's refuge)
- Colchester Debt Centre (new name for CAP)

I thought it would be helpful to give you a bit of information about each of these charities, starting with Korban.



Colchester Korban is a Christian based charity providing supported housing for 16 – 25-year-olds who have found themselves in crisis. They aim to offer young people a home, support, and guidance as they prepare themselves for independence. Colchester Korban was started as a churches' response to youth homelessness.

Nearly half of the people living in supported accommodation are aged 16 - 24. Young people have been hit hard by reductions in youth services and welfare reform over the last few years, and assistance with accommodation is needed now more than ever.

Homelessness among young people is often a hidden issue and many of those facing this problem are still in education, training, or work. The rising pressure that comes from being faced with homelessness has a devastating effect on all areas of life and Korban's early intervention helps to break the cycle of homelessness and its knock-on effects e.g., lost jobs, unfinished education, mental health problems, potential substance abuse and crime.

Korban has been providing young people with a place of care and safety since 2008. They continue to see homelessness among young people as an issue that must be addressed.

CHRISTMAS MARKET



The 2023 Christmas Market took place on December 2nd and was a great success both in terms of the money raised for the church but more importantly for the atmosphere generated and the fellowship enjoyed.

Could I express my thanks to all the stallholders and their helpers, the ladies who ran the cafeteria, who seemed to be worked off their feet, for making this a Market to remember.





We had new and traditional stalls plus our Kiddies corner that seemed to be full of Children and of course the big man himself Father Christmas.

The Hall thronged with people and although we were only open for three hours the time just flew by.



Friendship Lunches



**St Leonard's Church
Lexden** welcomes you to its
Friendship Lunches

Join us for delicious
homemade soup and cake.

Every month on the 2nd
Saturday from **September to
March** at 12pm

Please book by emailing
admin@stleonardslexden.org.uk
or phoning the Parish Office on **01206
575565** or use the sign up sheet in
Church.

Donations welcome on the day.

Women's Breakfast



3rd Saturday of the month in Church.
All Welcome, we look forward to seeing you there..
If you have any questions please contact
maggie@stleonardslexden.org.uk

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & FAMILIES

I would like to give a huge 'shout out' for the amazing team of people (some of whom are pictured in the following articles) who work with our children, young people and families. You may only be aware of those who attend Junior Church, play in the worship band or sing in the choir; there is so much more that goes on at other times.

Baby & Toddler Group

This meets every week during term time running 2 x one hourly sessions and does amazing work with the children of our parish & some from other parishes. At their Christmas service & celebration 45 children with their parents and carers attended - the atmosphere was full of fun and fellowship. This congregation of our church is open to our Christian mission through the dedication and care of those who lead it. 25% of these children attend our Messy Church.

Messy Church

This takes place 6 times a year with various Christian themes that follow our church calendar - Messy Pancakes, Messy Harvest & Messy Nativity to name but three. At our Messy Nativity just before Christmas over 40 children attended. Again, those who attend make up one of our larger congregations - this is a new way of looking at church and has great potential for spreading the good news of the gospel of Christ through activities, storytelling, singing and sharing food.

OMG

Young people today seem to have so much going on in their lives and sometimes it's difficult to get them together all at the same time. This does not deter the team who lead them and organise activities, including being happy to sleep out in the church in aid of the homeless and raise £1400 at the same time.

Our work with these groups, and others, is vital for the growth and future of our church - they need encouragement and much love.

Please keep them in your prayers and if you feel you can help in any way at any time please let me know.

Our children and young people wish you a very happy and blessed new year.

Take care & God bless,

Maggie

Baby & Toddler Group



9:30am and 11:00am in the Church Hall each Wednesday during term time.
Find us at www.facebook.com/stleonardsbabyandtoddlergroup



JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2024

<p>7th January God shakes things up! Genesis 1:1-5</p>	<p>Exploring bright beginnings</p>
<p>14th January Recognising when and how God calls 1 Samuel 3:1-10</p>	<p>Listening for God's call</p>
<p>21st January Responding to God's call Jonah 3:1-5,10</p>	<p>Reflecting on how to put faith into action</p>
<p>28th January All Age Eucharist in church CHRISTINGLE!</p>	
<p>4th February You are not forgotten by God Isaiah 40:21-31</p>	<p>Imagining God as being in every detail of the universe</p>
<p>11th February The importance of witness and telling 2 Kings 2:1-12 MESSY PANCAKES! 3pm -5pm</p>	<p>How do we bear witness to God in our day to day lives?</p> 
<p>18th February God's good news of a covenant Genesis 9:8-17</p>	<p>Reflecting on the significance of the rainbow</p>
<p>25th February Trusting God when we don't understand Genesis 17:1-7,15-16</p>	<p>Understanding that God might see things differently to us Discussing the promises made by God and by Jesus</p>



Celebrating Christmas with children at St Leonard's

During Advent we were thrilled to welcome over 160 children and adults to our Messy Nativity worship and the St Leonard's Baby and Toddler Group Christmas service and party.

Our Messy Nativity was a joyous occasion with the adults recreating the Christmas Story. It was wonderful to welcome one of our families from the Baby and Toddler Group who took the parts of Mary, Joseph, Jesus and a shepherd. It was very moving to have a real baby Jesus, and the children gazed in wonder as the tableau was revealed and they saw Mary holding her child. Our beautiful candle lit Bethlehem scene provided the perfect backdrop as we sang O Little Town of Bethlehem in the stillness of the church. A modern day miracle was performed in the kitchen as the delicious savoury and sweet traybakes fed everyone with some left over!



A few days later the church was filled again as we held our Baby and Toddler Group service, led by Maggie. It's a privilege to welcome parents, family members and carers each week to our Wednesday group, and lovely to play a part in their Christmas celebrations in this way. We played games and took part in Christmas themed craft activities before heading to the hall for a delicious picnic

lunch and a visit from Father Christmas.

We are so pleased to see the friendships that have developed between members of the group and between the children too. We really feel that our St Leonard's family grows week by week as we are viewed as a church that welcomes everyone, young and old.



OMG Sleepout 2023

On a chilly night in early December, the St Leonard's OMG gang settled down for the night, not in their usual cosy beds, but on the church floor, in order to raise funds to support the charity Colchester Engagement and Next Steps. Formally the Colchester Night Shelter, this amazing charity focuses on helping people not just with a safe bed for the night but with longer-term tailored support for their next steps to a better life. From general advice, practical help navigating the benefits system, providing Wi-Fi to assist job searches, ensuring breakfast and a hot meal are available, right through to lending a friendly ear, whatever they can do they will. CENS aims to set paths straight again and provide structure where it has been lost along the way.

As well as the essential part of fundraising, the children learned all about the work of CENS from our own Patsi Morgans including a couple of case studies, written by some previous CENS residents. It was eye-opening for them. We talk a lot about helping others in Junior Church and sometimes for our children that mainly means helping those you know or being nice to people in your class at school (how else do you demonstrate Christian values when you are under 10?). This was a great example of something they could do that has sent ripples out to those in need that are unknown to them - and those ripples have resulted in around £1400 in essential funds for a great cause. Wow! Not a bad return for an uncomfortable night for 5 under-10s, 2 teens and 3 adults.

Thanks go out to everyone who donated, baked, supported, shared, and tossed and turned! And thanks also to my mad sleepover buddies Rachel B and Rosemary. Great job all!

Kirsty



From the Archives

The item from the Archives this month is a little different and relates to the Revd. George Preston who was Rector from 1804 -1841. It is the Revd. Preston we have to thank for overseeing the building of our present church, although there have been changes to the church since it was built in the early 1820s.

It was quite common in those times for a Rector to stay in one parish for many years and indeed, his successor the Revd John Papillon was rector for almost 50 years.

My reason for looking at Revd Preston is to highlight fact that he was able to vote in General Elections, something we take for granted, but the Revd Preston was only one of twelve parishioners of Lexden who could vote in the Election of 1833.

Why is this important, because this would be the last election to take place before the Franchise began to be extended to more people and by people, I mean men.

Colchester was a constituency in its own right, Lexden was part of the Northern Division and part of the Lexden Hundred. The Revd Preston was voter 2920 and he qualified to vote by having Freehold Houses, please note Houses!

In those times there was no such thing as a secret ballot, you had to go and declare your vote, so corruption was rife. According to the teller sheet Revd Preston declared his vote for the two Tory candidates, Sir

John Tyssen Tyrell-Bart, and Alexander Baring. It is interesting that Alexander Barings' brother, Henry, had been MP for Colchester between 1820 and 1826.

What is of note is that Alexander Baring and his family were Slave owners in the Caribbean. When Britain declared slave owning illegal in 1834 thanks to William Wilberforce Alexander Baring and his family received around £10,000 in compensation for the loss of their slaves.

The Baring Brothers went on to found Barings Bank which is still in existence to this day.

Men's Breakfast



1st Saturday of the month in Church.
All Welcome, we look forward to seeing you there...
If you have any questions please contact
davidw@stleonardslexden.org.uk

Personal fraud and how to prevent it

Fraud is when a person lies to you, or 'scams' you, to gain an advantage, such as taking your money or learning private information about you. This could be via email, text, phone or in person, either on the street or on your doorstep.

Some adults may be especially vulnerable to fraud and financial abuse. If you're concerned about someone you know, contact your local social services and ask for Adult Social Care.

With a little knowledge you can protect yourself from fraudsters too:

- Learn the ten golden rules to prevent fraud (see below).
- Find out about the most common types of fraud.
- Download The Little Book of Big Scams; [The Little Book of Big Scams audio version](#) is also available.

For more information and help and to report fraud, go to [Action Fraud](#), the UK's national fraud and cybercrime reporting centre.

Ten golden rules to prevent fraud

Remember these ten golden rules to help you prevent fraud and beat the scammers.

1. Be suspicious of all 'too good to be true' offers and deals. There are no guaranteed get-rich-quick schemes.
2. Don't agree to offers or deals immediately. Insist on time to get independent or legal advice before making a decision.
3. Don't hand over money or sign anything until you've checked someone's credentials and their company's.
4. Never send money to anyone you don't know or trust, whether in the UK or abroad, or use methods of payment you're not comfortable with.

5. Never give banking or personal details to anyone you don't know or trust. This information is valuable so make sure you protect it.
6. Always log on to a website directly rather than clicking on links in an email.
7. Don't just rely on glowing testimonials. Find solid, independent evidence of a company's success.
8. Always get independent or legal advice if an offer involves money, time or commitment.
9. If you spot a scam or have been scammed, report it and get help.
10. Don't be embarrassed about reporting a scam. Because the scammers are cunning and clever there's no shame in being deceived. By reporting it, you'll make it more difficult for them to deceive others.

Get help or report a scam

If you think you've uncovered a scam, been targeted by a scam or fallen victim to fraudsters, contact Action Fraud on [0300 123 2040](tel:03001232040) or at [Action Fraud](#).

Call us on [101](tel:101) if you know the suspect or they're still in the area.

Reporting crime, including fraud, is important. If you don't tell the authorities, how do they know it's happened and how can they do anything about it?

Remember that if you're a victim of a scam or an attempted scam, however minor, there may be hundreds or thousands of others in a similar position. Your information may form part of one big jigsaw and be vital to completing the picture.

MAGAZINE DEADLINE

Final day for items for the DECEMBER edition:

SUNDAY 11TH FEBRUARY

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.

Have You been Bereaved?

Losing a loved one can leave you feeling adrift; talking and meeting with others in a similar situation may help.

Lexden Bereavement Support Group offers the opportunity to chat over a cup of tea. The group is informal and relaxed, and led by trained volunteers.

It is open to people of all faiths and backgrounds and is usually run on Thursday afternoons fortnightly.

If you would like to attend – or to find out more - please telephone Margaret on 01206 547803 or email bereavement@stleonardslexden.org.uk

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE JANUARY-FEBRUARY

Francis, John Bernard	21 st February 1928 – 7 th January 2010
Newton, Marjorie Annie	25 th January 1929 – 22 nd January 1983
Bonner, John Reginald	18 th September 1930 – 7 th January 1984
Garland, Patricia	10 th August 1933 – 30 th January 2015
Loxley, Harry Cedric	5 th February 1927 – 22 nd January 2018
Chaplin, George Brian Barrie	27 th January 1924 – 12 th January 2021
Carter, Dorren June	22 nd January 1929 – 3 rd February 2000
Tokley, Jack William	29 th April 1914 – 7 th February 2005
Drever, Roy Howard William	9 th March 1949 – 12 th February 2002
Sceats, Kenneth Henry Gordon	7 th December 1915 – 11 th February 2006
Merryweather, Violet Maud	4 th February 1918 – 6 th February 2010
Coulter, Martin Austin	5 th May 1933 – 12 th February 2011
Flower, Mary Gwendoline	22 nd February 1926 – 26 th February 2011
Hyde, Irene Mary	7 th October 1910 - 27 th February 2011
Wake, Charles	26 th October 1926 – 16 th February 2012
Matthews, Stuart James	22 nd September 1980 – 28 th February 2012
Clary, Mary	6 th March 1924 – 29 th February 2012
Whalley, Benjamin	31 st December 1928 – 27 th February 2012
Holden, Arthur Stuart James	29 th June 1923 – 11 th February 2013
Caunter, Margaret Emma	24 th September 1931 – 3 rd February 2017
Ellis, William Frederick	2 nd May 1919 – 16 th February 1991
Lappage, Leonard Arthur	28 th June 1931 – 19 th February 2018
Moxon, Grace Phyllis	13 th March 1920 – 18 th February 2019



If you would like the name of a relative added to the Book of Remembrance, you will find forms with instructions on the bookcase beside the north door.

REGULAR SERVICES

Sunday	8.00am 1662 BCP Holy Communion (1st & 3rd Sundays) 9.45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church <i>Or All Age Eucharist</i> (1 st 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



Christingle Service

Our annual All Age Christingle Celebration service will take place on Sunday 28th January at 9:45am. All proceeds from his service will be donated to the Children's Society.



Ash Wednesday – 14th February

There will be two services with Imposition of Ashes on Ash Wednesday, 14th February, at 10:00am and 7:30pm.