



THE PARISH CHURCH OF
ST LEONARD, LEXDEN

ORDINARY PEOPLE. EXTRAORDINARY GOD.



PARISH MAGAZINE

MARCH-APRIL 2024 £1.00

Journeying Through Lent

Dear Friends,

As I write this, I recall a recent sermon I gave about being a child of God; the time of Lent offers us the opportunity to take time to reflect, study and grow as children of God. It is a season that embraces so many emotions as we prepare ourselves for the dramatic and sacred events of Holy Week.

Lent is a 40-day period of time leading up to Easter that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. The word "Lent" comes from the old English word 'lencten' that means lengthen - referring to the season of spring and longer daylight hours; a symbolic time of growth as spring emerges all around us. The length of Lent also represents the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness before beginning his ministry. Lent for the children of God, should be a time of spiritual renewal and reflection in preparation of observing Good Friday, the death of Jesus and celebrating Easter, the resurrection of Jesus.

Lent presents the opportunity to draw closer to God through prayer, repentance, and self-examination. Many Christians choose to fast or give up certain indulgences as a form of self-discipline and penance. Whatever we choose to do let us all take time to prepare ourselves for the two most important days of the Christian year - Good Friday and Easter. Lent is a time that offers us an opportunity to come to terms with the human condition we may spend the rest of the year running from,

bringing our need for a Saviour to the forefront. Lent is a time to open the doors of our hearts a little wider and understand our Lord a little deeper so that when Good Friday and Easter come, it is not just another day at church but an opportunity to receive the overflowing graces God has to offer.

I look forward to journeying through Lent with you and growing as a child of God.

Take care & God bless,

Maggie



Our Lent Course continues in the Nicholls room on Wednesdays. Times and dates are as follows:

28th February	11:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.	Women of the Cross & Their Stories
6th March	11:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.	Julian's Vision
9th March	8:30 a.m.	Pilgrimage to Norwich
13th March	11:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.	Witnessing Holy Week
20th March	11:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.	Mary Magdalen in the Garden

FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the March, April edition of the Church Magazine in which we welcome the coming of spring and longer days. In this edition we look back at some of the events that occurred during January and February, like our Christingle service, a very successful Messy Church, and the resumption of Brick club.

We have details of events coming up to raise money for Christian Aid, tributes to 2 of our most faithful parishioners and all the details of services during Holy Week and Easter. And Mouse Tails is back! (thank you Chris)

Best Wishes

Mike.

MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTION

From May 2024 we will be offering a magazine subscription service.

If you wish to subscribe please pick up a form from the back of the Church and return to the parish administrator by posting in the "Items for Magazine" box at the back of Church.

MARCH-APRIL DIARY

Saturday 2nd March

8:30am Men's Breakfast

SUNDAY 3rd March – 3rd Sunday of Lent

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9.45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church

Monday 4th March

7:00pm Eucharist

7:45pm PCC Meeting

Tuesday 5th March

11:30am Holy Communion at Cheviot

7.30pm 'Medley' house group (Rosemary 515245)

Wednesday 6th March

9:30am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee

10:45am Holy Communion at Woodlands

10:45am Toddler Group Service for Mothering Sunday

11:00am Lent Course in the Nicholls Room

11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

7:00pm Lent Course in the Nicholls Room

Thursday 7th March

8.00am Eucharist

Saturday 9th March

8:30am Parish Pilgrimage to Norwich

SUNDAY 10th March – Mothering Sunday

9.45am ALL AGE EUCHARIST for Mothering Sunday

5.30pm Evensong & Sermon

Wednesday 13th March

9:30am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee

11:00am Lent Course in the Nicholls Room

11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

7:00pm Lent Course in the Nicholls Room

Thursday 14th March

8.00am Eucharist

Saturday 16th March

8:30am Women's Breakfast

12:00pm Friendship Lunch

SUNDAY 17th March – Passion Sunday

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9:45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church

Wednesday 20th March

9:30am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee

11:00am Lent Course in the Nicholls Room

11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

7:00pm Lent Course in the Nicholls Room

Thursday 21st March

8.00am Eucharist

Saturday 23rd March

9:30am Church Spring Clean

SUNDAY 24th March – Palm Sunday

9.45am ALL AGE EUCHARIST with procession of Palms

3:00pm Messy Palm Sunday

6.30pm Readings & Music for Palm Sunday

Monday 25th March

7:00pm Compline for Holy Week

Tuesday 26th March

7:00pm Compline for Holy Week

Wednesday 27th March

9:30am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee

11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

7:00pm Compline for Holy Week

Thursday 28th March

7:30pm Maundy Thursday Eucharist

Friday 29th March

10:00am All Age Service for Good Friday

2:00pm The Liturgy of Good Friday

Saturday 30th March

7:30pm The Easter Vigil and Blessing of the New Fire

Incense will be used at this service

SUNDAY 31st March – Easter Sunday

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9.45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church and Blessing of the Easter Garden followed by Bonnet Parade and Egg Rolling

Tuesday 2nd April

10:00am Brick Club

11:30am Holy Communion at Cheviot

7.30pm 'Medley' house group (Rosemary 515245)

Wednesday 3rd April

10:45am Holy Communion at Woodlands

Saturday 6th April

8:30am Men's Breakfast

SUNDAY 7th April – 2nd Sunday of Easter

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9:45am ALL-AGE EUCHARIST

12:00pm Baptism of Eliza Rain Rivett

Tuesday 9th April

10:00am Brick Club

Wednesday 10th April

10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee

Thursday 11th April

8.00am Eucharist

Saturday 13th April

12:00pm Pot Luck Lunch in Aid of Christian Aid

SUNDAY 14th April – 3rd Sunday of Easter

9.45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church

5.30pm Evensong & Sermon

Wednesday 17th April

9:30am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee

11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

Thursday 18th April

8.00am Eucharist

Saturday 20th April

8:30am Women's Breakfast

SUNDAY 21st April – 4th Sunday of Easter

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9:45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church

Wednesday 24th April

9:30am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee

11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

Thursday 25th April

8.00am Eucharist

SUNDAY 28th April – 5th Sunday of Easter

9.45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church

11:30am APCM Meeting

5.30pm Eucharist for Wholeness & Healing



MOUSE TAILS

Life for the St. Leonard's mouse community was going along as usual. January was always a bit dismal but once February arrived and the snowdrops started to flower in the Churchyard it was a sign that Spring would soon arrive.

After Christmas the mice families started to look forward and plan for Easter, their second favourite event of the year and they were hoping that the humans would carry on with their usual traditions of egg rolling, hats decorated with spring flowers and religious symbols and hot cross buns. Grandad had told the youngsters all about the buns, how it was a centuries old tradition and that in the Christian community the cross commemorated the crucifixion of Christ and were given out on Good Friday.

As was their tradition, all the mice from the Church, the Hall and the woods got together on Easter Sunday evening once the Church and the Hall were empty of humans. Grandad conducted their own Easter Service which all the mice attended, giving thanks to God for all the blessings they



received and singing their favourite hymns led by the mouse choir and accompanied by little Tommy Organ and his small band of players; Jimmy on the drum (a cardboard carton and a twig, Freddie on the cello (a matchbox with a rubber band around it) and Johnny on a penny whistle which had been found amongst the Christmas cracker rubbish.

All the mice strolled around the Church and admired the beautiful flower displays then scampered up to the Hall to start their feasting. The Mums were very pleased with the amount of boiled egg scraps that had been carefully collected and made a beautiful salad dish with eggs, watercress and fresh herbs, supplied by the Woods cousins. They were also thrilled to have plenty of pieces of buttered hot cross buns and some excellent cakes.



The Dads, of course, looked after the drinks; homemade elderberry wine, acorn beer and elderflower cordial for the youngsters. Once the food had been given full justice the grown-ups settled down to natter and catch up on all their news. Games were organised for the youngsters, leap mouse, pin the tail on the cat. Musical chairs, statues to name but a few!



When the youngsters were hot and tired and the Mums were refreshing them with delicious cordial and a sit down, the choir and band led a jolly sing song. This was followed by dancing (to you and I it would look like a roomful of mice jumping up and down!)

All good things must come to an end and the very tired and happy mice trooped off to their previously prepared nests and soon all that could be heard were little yawns and snuffling noises.

Once again the mice community had enjoyed a wonderful Easter.

CT

APCM - SUNDAY 28TH APRIL 2024

All are welcome to attend our Annual Parochial Church Meeting which will take place in church at 11:30am on Sunday 28th April 2024.

The financial statements and the parish reports relate to the calendar year 2023. Once completed and agreed, paperwork will be posted on the APCM area of our website by Sunday 21st April. There you will find the notice of Annual Parochial Church Meeting, nomination forms for election to the Parochial Church Council, nomination form for election to the Deanery Synod, and a nomination form for Churchwardens.

Notice of the meeting will also be displayed in church from Sunday 14th April, when hardcopies of the forms will also be available at the back of the nave.

The 2023 financial statement and report is required to be available for at least 7 days before the meeting. By Sunday 21st April, hardcopies will be available at the back of church, and digital copies posted at <http://www.stleonardslexden.org.uk/apcm/>

We strongly encourage you to use the digital versions if you are able to.



A TRIBUTE TO MARGARET SHEPHERD

Margaret's family have kindly given us permission to reproduce the Eulogy given by her daughters Elizabeth and Caroline at her funeral.

Good Afternoon

For those of you who don't know, my name is Elizabeth, and this is my sister, Caroline, and Margaret was our Mum.

We would like to thank you all for being here today, as we remember our Mum, as she requested, with a service of thanksgiving and hope. Sadly, due to his health, Owen is unable to be here today but we are comforted by the fact that he sat with his beloved Margaret, holding her hand, not long before her passing. Margaret died peacefully in her sleep at Milton Lodge Residential Home, with Caroline by her side, aged 89.

Margaret was born Margaret Evelyn Rand on 5 Jan 1935 – second daughter to Leonard and Priscilla. Sadly, her sister, Ruth, died at a young age. Mum's parents both died before we were born so there was no immediate family to speak of. To have her own family meant everything to her, dedicating the rest of her life to being a wife and mother.

Before this though, Mum was a thoroughly modern lady – way ahead of her time. She worked as a nanny at Dr Barnardo's orphanage, rode a scooter and travelled overseas visiting Norway, Switzerland, and Mallorca to name a few and judging by some of the photos we have found, had a thoroughly good time! She definitely lived her younger years to the fullest and would have experienced more than most of her contemporaries. During this time, she became a full-time live-in nanny to the Hill family of Coggeshall, caring for young Christopher and Caroline Hill from a very early age until they went to boarding school,

creating many special childhood memories for them. Caroline has remained in contact with Mum ever since and is here today with her brother, Christopher, and told us “Our parents came and went, Margaret was always there. I’ve always felt so lucky she was part of our childhood, a wonderful person to have been looked after by”.

Mum and Dad met through their shared love of music and singing – both being members of the Braintree Choral Society and married in April 1972 at St Peters Church, in Coggeshall - “best days work I ever did” said Dad, on a regular basis!

It wasn’t long before they both had their hands full with the two of us! And the years that followed are full of fond memories – family holidays, long walks to pick blackberries, bike rides, card games, jigsaw puzzles and slide shows. Life seemed simple back then. Mum was always there. We felt safe, secure, and carefree, and even though times were often tough, she never let on and we never went without. Mum was a LEGEND. She was kind, generous, patient, hardworking, easy going, savvy, selfless, practical, artistic, and creative – with a wicked sense of humour.

She very rarely relaxed – and when she did sit down there would always be something in her hands – a crossword or cross stitch, knitting needles or a crochet hook. Meals were always home cooked, fresh cakes and biscuits in the pantry, homemade jams filled the cupboard and Christmas was a veritable feast of everything made from scratch.

Mum was creative and artistic. She played the piano and sang in the church choir. She was a whizz on a sewing machine and made most of our clothes. I remember being so excited when we were allowed to choose the paper patterns from the haberdashery. I’m not sure I was so keen on the matchy matchy clothes we were often dressed in! We also had hand knitted cardigans, jumpers, scarves, and mittens. Dad is still modelling much of her work. In her later years she enjoyed cross stitch and even had her work exhibited.

She also loved the outdoors, walked everywhere, and enjoyed gardening. Honeysuckle, roses, spring bulbs, tomatoes and rhubarb filled the back garden, though I'm not sure the green thumb gene got passed down to us.

Mum also had a great sense of humour that was always at the ready. She was quick witted and loved a good laugh. One particular day, we had been complaining that the soup we had been served for dinner looked boring. She promptly grabbed some food colouring and we all got blue soup for dinner!

Mum held our family together. She was the CEO, the Finance Officer and Operations Manager, and put everyone before herself. She was courageous and brave, and never ever complained. Even when she fell and broke her hip whilst hanging out the washing, she managed to get back inside the house and finish the dishes before taking herself to the walk-in centre to get checked out.

Once Caroline and I were both at school, Mum started working again. She started off working as a dinner lady at our school – St James Primary School where she was known as Evelyn as there were 3 Margarets in one small kitchen! Later, she worked at Woodlands, a day centre for people with learning disabilities, and then in the coffee shop at Guntons. Her jobs allowed her to meet people from all walks of life, make lifelong friends and there was always time for a chat!

The Church was also very important to Mum – a lifelong Christian and regular church goer firstly at St James the Great before moving here to St Leonards. Margaret was a well-known and well-loved member of the choir up until she moved with Dad into the care home in June 2021. The music, hymns and readings today were all chosen by Margaret, and her choices reflect her faith and her love.

We are so proud to be your daughters – we have a lot to live up to but couldn't have asked for a better Mum.

Margaret The Marvellous!

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, this month it's Colchester Foodbank.



Every day people in the UK go hungry for reasons ranging from redundancy to receiving an unexpected bill on a low income. A simple box of food makes a big difference, with foodbanks helping prevent crime, housing loss, family breakdown and mental health problems.

Colchester Foodbank is part of The Trussell Trust's network of 428 Foodbanks, working to tackle food poverty and hunger in our local communities, as well as across the UK.

The Foodbank Network was founded in 2004 after four years of developing the original Foodbank based in Salisbury. Since then The Trussell Trust has helped communities work together to launch Foodbanks nationwide in a wide range of towns and cities.

In 2022/23, food banks in the Trussell Trust's network provided 2,986,203 three-day emergency food supplies and support to UK people in crisis. Of these, 1,139,553 were distributed for children.

Easter Crossword Clues

Across

- [2] Apostle who denied Jesus three times (5)
- [5] Belonged to Joseph of Arimathea (4)
- [6] Garden of ----- (10)
- [10] First to find the tomb empty (4, 9)
- [13] What happened at the moment of Jesus Death (8)
- [14] Carried out by Pontius Pilate (5)
- [15] Released by Pilate at Jesus trial (8)
- [16] Traditionally eaten on Good Friday (3, 5, 4)
- [18] What the Roman Centurion thrust in Jesus side (5)
- [19] A crown of ----- placed on Jesus's head (6)
- [20] Used to crucify Jesus (5)

Down

- [1] The Sunday before Easter (4, 6)
- [3] Apostle who doubted Jesus's resurrection (6)
- [4] Animal Jesus rode on during his entry into Jerusalem (6)
- [7] Appear in church after Lent (7)
- [8] Given to Children on Easter Day (6, 4)
- [9] Apostle who received Thirty pieces of silver (5)
- [11] What we celebrate on Easter Day (12)
- [12] What Jesus was crucified on (5)
- [17] Season always linked to Easter (6)



Easter Crossword (Solution on Page 37)



Christian Aid week takes place from 12th – 19th May.

Christian Aid exists to create a world where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty. This involves working in partnership with local organisations, as well as with governments and the private sector.

Their work includes helping people to:

- claim their rights and access services such as healthcare and education
- ensure they are not discriminated against for any reason
- become more resilient to shocks and disasters such as drought, climate change and hurricanes
- make the most of opportunities, such as being able to sell their produce for a fair price.

All of which is needed now more than ever.

This year we thought we would hold a couple of events to help raise money. On Saturday 13th April we will be hosting a Pot-Luck Lunch in the Church starting at 12:00 Noon. Cost will be £5 a head, all proceeds to Christian Aid.



And on Saturday 11th May we will be holding a coffee morning to start Christian Aid week off with a bang!

Please put these dates in your diaries and come along and bring your friends and family.



Christingle Service

It was wonderful to see so many people in Church at our annual Christingle Celebration service which took place on Sunday 28th January. Many thanks to everyone who came to the service and donated to the Children's Society; we raised a fantastic £351.67.



A special thank you and well done to Charlotte who held a cake sale for her neighbours and raised an amazing £124!

Julie would also like to thank her wonderful team of Christingle makers who worked so hard to create our Christingles – thank you ladies!





Messy Church!

It was amazing to welcome over 50 children and their adults to **Messy Pancakes!** recently. Prayer bracelets were made, cross keyrings have been attached to our hoodies and bags were decorated, 'Be Kind to Yourself' pockets are hanging in bedrooms and iced heart biscuits, and of course lots of pancakes, were eaten!

But as well as the pancake races and tossing the children found out about Lent and the importance of taking time to talk with God and to reflect on such an amazing love that forgiveness is always unconditional and for everyone.



Fortunately, **Messy Palm Sunday** is just around the corner so look out for the posters and flyers and take this opportunity to join us to prepare for Easter with your children.

Sunday 24th March 3pm - 5pm

The Messy Church Team



MARCH-APRIL 2024

3 rd March	Card making for church members unable to come to church
10 th March	All Age Mothering Sunday Service
17 th March	God's New Covenant Jeremiah shares a new message from God
24 th March Messy Palm Sunday 3pm - 5pm	Palm Sunday Palm Sunday procession from the hall followed by Junior Church What kind of King is Jesus?
31 st March	Easter Sunday Junior Church Easter focus followed by Easter Bonnet Parade and Easter Egg Rolling
7 th April	All Age Eucharist
14 th April	Learning to Live After Our Mistakes Peter becomes 'the rock' on Whom Jesus builds the Church
21 st April	How We use Our Power and Influence Peter and John explain that Jesus is the cornerstone
28 th April	Journeying Alongside Others Philip meets the Ethiopian court official

“HE REMEMBERS US”

At Junior church we have been responding to Isaiah 40: 21-31 by creating our own Acrostic Poems.

They were so good we wanted to share them with you all. Each one has “HE REMEMBERS US” as initials down the left-hand side of the page. It’s amazing to think that a style that you may think is quite constrained, produced such different and incredible results. Do let us know what you think, or try it yourself, and share it with us at Junior Church!

He is God,
Eternal and forever.

Reaching out to
Everyone.
Maker of Heaven and
Earth.

Mother and Father of us all.
Bringing hope to
Everyone.

Reaching out,
Searching and seeking

Unforgotten, each of us is
Special to God.

By Suzanne

*Have you not known? Have you not heard?
Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?
It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,
and spreads them like a tent to live in;
who brings princes to naught,
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.
Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
when he blows upon them, and they wither,
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.
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 40.21-26*

Hoping
Everyone

Realises,
Each
Miniscule
Entity
Might
Become
Eagles.
Reaching
Skies

Under our
Saviour

Heal
Everyone

Remember
Earth
Makes
Everlasting
Memories.
Be an
Elevator.
Rise to the
Sky.

Understand
Someone.

By Kirsty

By Lydia

*Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,
'My way is hidden from the
Lord,
and my right is
disregarded by my God'?
Have you not known? Have
you not heard?
The Lord is the everlasting
God,
the Creator of the ends
of the earth.
He does not faint or grow
weary;
his understanding is
unsearchable.
He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the
powerless.
Even youths will faint and
be weary,
and the young will fall
exhausted;
but those who wait for the
Lord shall renew their
strength,
they shall mount up with
wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be
weary,
they shall walk and not
faint.*

Isaiah 40.28-31

Baby & Toddler Group



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

A close-up photograph of a large pile of colorful LEGO bricks in various colors including red, blue, yellow, green, and orange. The bricks are scattered and some are partially assembled.

JUST TURN UP AND BUILD

ST LEONARD'S

BRICK CLUB

- Tuesday's 2nd and 9th April, 10am-12noon
- St Leonard's Church, Lexden
- Free of Charge. All Welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult

HAVE ANY SPARE BRICKS?

Due to the success of Brick Club (over 50 children attended in half-term) we are looking for donations of any spare building bricks you may have. If you can help please speak to Mike or Linda



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



A TRIBUTE TO JEAN HALLETT

Jean's family have kindly given us permission to reproduce the tribute given at her funeral.

Jean was born in Billericay in 1938 to Cairns and Doris Burgess who had met at Barclays Bank in the 1920s and moved around Essex with his job.

Along with her older brother John, the family spent the war living above Barclays in Ingatestone where Jean talked about happy times despite all that was going on in the world. Her Dad was in the Home Guard, and she remembers going to the air-raid shelter and also seeing a Doodlebug fly past the window when sitting in the Dentist chair.

Her Dad's family were Scottish, and they had many friends in the farming community with Jean taking part in Scottish Dancing competitions. She was close to her cousins Ian and Jane who lived in Shenfield.

The family followed her Dad round the country as he competed for Essex at bowls and took many trips up to Scotland to see relatives, Jean said it seemed to "take days to get there"! They moved to Chelmsford after the war where Jean went first to St Anne's and then to the High school where she met several lifelong friends, two of whom - Mary-Anne and Maureen - are here today.

When she left school Jean trained as a secretary and went to work for Strutt and Parker in Chelmsford before going to London to work for Central Mining and another friend - Jenny - from that time is also with us in the church.

Jean met her future husband John at Young Farmers Club, and their first date was to see the international tennis at Wembley, John had asked Jean's Dad if he could surprise her and meet her off the train

from London. Apparently he took her to a transport cafe on the way and the spoons were attached to the tables with string! But she must have been impressed because they got engaged in 1961 and were married in September 1964 at Writtle Church, and we have a few wedding guests here today including John's sister Mary and her husband Nicholas.

They bought their first home together in Hollywood Close, Great Baddow and neighbours June, Gill and John are also in the church with us.

Two sons came along, Robert in 1967 and Richard in 1969, and in 1972 they move to Oaklea Avenue in Springfield with Jean's parents living just round the corner. In 1975 Jean's father passed away and they sold up and moved to Larch Hill, Fryerning Lane, Ingatestone which allowed Jean's Mum to have her own rooms and space. They had many happy years in that house with its large garden and tennis court and where Robert and Richard grew up and called home. Great friends from those days Margaret, Sylvia and Roma are here today.

Jean knew a large number of people in Ingatestone, Robert used to dread going shopping with her knowing that a 10-minute trip would turn into over an hour by the time Mum had spoken to everyone she met!

Jean had many lifelong friends from school, work, golf, tennis and Church and made some lasting friendships in Chelmsford, Ingatestone and Colchester later in life which she cherished. Kay, Kerry, Rosemary and Jean to name but a few!

Jean and John celebrated their golden wedding in 2014 and John passed away shortly after, Jean always thought that John was determined to hold on to make that milestone.

Jean went to Australia with her brother after her John died and had some lovely holidays with her friend Jean Holden including trips to Switzerland and a cruise down the Adriatic where she broke her hip

and Robert had to go and help repatriate her - Jean Holden stayed with her the entire time making sure she was looked after.

Jean became ill around 5 years ago but even as her health deteriorated she remained positive and cheerful throughout, she was always a glass half full person. When she couldn't look after herself any longer she moved into Cheviot nursing home where she received excellent care and where there weren't enough days in the week for the many visitors she received!

Jean loved most sports and had a passion for playing and watching tennis. She was a useful player and was so thrilled to be able to play with her grandsons on her 80th birthday. John was an avid golfer and when he retired Jean thought she might not see him so much so took up golf and was a member of Chelmsford and then Colchester golf clubs for many years. Jean loved gardening, flower arranging and learned to play bridge. She was very competitive and particularly enjoyed playing scrabble with Jean Holden in later life, although I think she wished she could have won a bit more often!

Jean had a strong faith and was a lifelong churchgoer and member of the Mothers Union. She got involved in all aspects of Church life wherever her and John lived including cleaning the church and flower arranging for both church and hospice. She also coordinated the local collections for the Children's Society when living in Ingatestone.

Above all she loved her family and was so proud of her sons Robert and Richard and her four grandchildren George, Charlie, Katie and Milly and delighted in hearing about their achievements and what they were up to.

Jean was devoted to John throughout their 50 years of marriage and cared for him through his long illness and went to visit him in Alderwood care home every day.

She will be remembered by her friends and family as a loving, caring, positive lady who always put others before herself.

Film Review – One Life



This is the moving and true story of Sir Nicholas Winton, a London stockbroker, who organised the evacuation of 669 Jewish children from Nazi occupied Prague in 1938 and 1939. It would have been more, but Nazi soldiers brutally intervened to stop the last train leaving.

The film starts with Winton visiting a friend in Prague where Jewish children, hungry and cold, were detained in camps. “How will they survive?” he asks. “They probably won’t” comes the reply. It is enough to spur him into action; obtaining visas for the children, finding volunteer families willing to take the children in and willing to pay the £50 deposit demanded by the British government – a lot of money in those days.

There are heartbreaking scenes of children saying their goodbyes before the train departs, not realising that they will never see their parents again.

The young Winton is played by Johnny Flynn, the older Winton by Anthony Hopkins who carries with him for the rest of his life the pain and regret for all the children he was unable to save. Winton himself was born to Jewish parents. The whole family converted to Christianity, and he was baptised into the Church of England.

In 1988 Sir Nicholas was interviewed by Esther Rantzen on her Sunday evening programme *That’s Life* (anyone remember it?) This event is reenacted in the film; Esther invites those people in the audience who were Kindertransport children to stand up and the whole audience rises to their feet.

“In as much as you did it to one of the least of my brothers and sisters you did it unto me”.

Hugh Beavan

HOLY WEEK & EASTER 2024

PALM SUNDAY (24th March)

8.00am HOLY COMMUNION (Book of Common Prayer)

9.45am PARISH EUCHARIST & PROCESSION OF PALMS

3.00pm MESSY HOLY WEEK

Mess! Fun! Food! Free kids crafts, activities, games, stories & songs. Children must be accompanied by an adult. No need to book, but - if you can - email juniorchurch@stleonardslexden.org.uk



MONDAY (25th March)

7.00pm COMPLINE BY CANDLELIGHT with address

A simple talk and reflective service to end the day in peace

TUESDAY (26th March)

7.00pm COMPLINE BY CANDLELIGHT with address

A simple talk and reflective service to end the day in peace

WEDNESDAY (27th March)

10am EUCHARIST followed by coffee

7.00pm compline by candlelight with address

A simple talk and reflective service to end the day in peace

MAUNDY THURSDAY (28th March)

7.30pm EUCHARIST OF THE LAST SUPPER with foot washing

followed by the 'Watch,' a vigil of silent prayer until midnight

GOOD FRIDAY (29th March)

10.00am ALL-AGE WORSHIP, a service suitable for children and those of any age, followed by hot cross buns

Noon-2pm Good Friday meditation

A time of reflection— drop in and out as suits you

2pm THE LITURGY OF GOOD FRIDAY

& Veneration of the Cross, with the Liturgy of the Sacrament

HOLY SATURDAY (30th March)

7.30pm THE EASTER VIGIL & BLESSING OF THE NEW FIRE

A beautiful service of readings and symbols of new life

Incense will be used at this service

EASTER DAY (31st March)

8.00am HOLY COMMUNION (Book of Common Prayer)

9.45am EASTER EUCHARIST & BLESSING OF THE EASTER GARDEN,

with Junior Church, and followed by egg rolling and an Easter bonnet parade

Especially suitable for Children:

MESSY HOLY WEEK (24th March, 3-5pm)

ALL-AGE GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE (29th March, 10am)

EASTER DAY EUCHARIST with Junior Church (Easter Day, 9.45am)

Children are welcome at all our worship – got a question?

Email juniorchurch@stleonardslexden.org.uk

REVIEW OF THE ELECTORAL ROLL

In preparation for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on April 28th, we are reviewing the Electoral Roll. This is not a full review; if you are already on the Electoral Roll, no further action is required.

If you would like your name to be added to the roll, please complete a form and return it to the Parish Office by Easter Sunday, March 31st.

Electronic versions of the form may be obtained by emailing electoralroll@stleonardslexden.org.uk or by contacting the Parish Office.



CHURCH SPRING CLEAN

We are holding a Spring Clean of the Church on Saturday 23rd March starting at 9:30am.

Many hands make light work so if you can help either on the day or on Friday 22nd March to do the high-level dusting please speak to Julie.

Let's get our beautiful Church ready to celebrate Easter!



From the Archives

Last month we looked at the voting record of the Revd Preston in the 1833 General Election. Remember it is the Revd Preston we must thank for being the driving force in building the present St Leonards. But going through the documentation we hold I came across information from the Vestry records for the parish dated 1813 to 1825. These records give interesting insights as to what was going on at the time regarding the church. Revd Preston became the Rector at St Leonards in 1804 and would remain until his death in 1841.

Vestry record for April 19th, 1813 (Easter Monday)

For repairs to the Church. Including Whitewashing, and new painting £79.5.11 (today that would be £79.29p however in terms of today's values that would equal £8721.90 (depending on whose inflation calculation you use).

Vestry record for April 11th, 1813 (Easter Monday)

For repairs to the church (details unspecified) £37.17.8 (£37.88)

Vestry record for March 28th, 1817

Revd Preston Inherited the sum of £100 (in today's values this would have been around £11,000) from the estate of the late Mrs Anne Rawston (formerly Lord of the Manor) to be used at his discretion for the poor of the parish. Revd Preston said he intended to use the money to build a National School for the education of the Children of the poor of the Parish following the principles of the Church of England. It was Revd Preston's intention to use part or all the money to buy some land in Spring Lane to build the school.

Anne Rawston never married; the term Mrs was a curtesy title given to older women during that period. It derived from the term Mistress.

Vestry record March 30th, 1818

Revd Preston had purchased a piece of freehold land in Spring Lane from Mr William Kimble for £40 and the National School had been built. The school construction had cost £178.10.9 (£178.55)

The ownership of the school was legally conveyed to Revd Preston and his successors, Rectors of this Parish for ever. This record is interesting as it gives details of those donating to the building of the school.

Mrs Rawston's Legacy	£180.00.00
Donation of the Revd G. Preston	£ 5.00.00
Donation of the Revd J.R.Papillon	£ 5.00,00
Donation of George Round	£ 5.00.00
Eastern County Committee	£ 15.00.00
Balance of old Sunday School subs	£ 8.10.09
Total raised	£218.10.09

The following payments were made to Hurrel (bricks), Rouse (bricks), Nelson (bricklaying), Lewis (slates), Glanfield (painting), Coleman (stoves), Martin (Blacksmith), Hayward (carpentry), Polley (carting), Sutherland (beer)

One interesting point when looking at those involved with the building of the School is that the Carpentry was carried out by Henry Hayward Junior who was the son of the Churchwarden, Henry Hayward and his son will be very involved in the building of the new St Leonards.

Vestry record March 25th, 1819

Repairs to Church and Churchyard fence £70.17.10 (£70.89)

The Vestry records for 1820 are very involved and I will refer to them in the May /June magazine.



Crossword Solution



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

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

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE MARCH

Jenkinson, Edith Charlotte	26 th March 1880 – 27 th March 1882
Geernaert, Joseph John	12 th May 1828 – 28 th March 1885
Ferrett, John Sydney (Jack)	21 st June 1919 – 16 th March 1993
Pugh, James	25 th February 1922 – 21 st March 1993
Smith, Alan	17 th July 1926 – 21 st March 1987
Pudney, Norman Allan	28 th August 1926 – 7 th March 2005
Potter, Janet Mary	28 th March 1920 – 29 th March 2005
Henderson, Bryan William	7 th June 1934 – 16 th March 2006
Green, Frances Marjorie Lois	22 nd January 1914 – 24 th March 2004
Lomas, Olive Mary Elizabeth	26 th October 1914 – 31 st March 2008
Wiffen, Douglas Charles	18 th April 1928 – 16 th March 2010
Epsom, Doris Eileen	30 th September 1916 – 12 th March 2013
Taylor, Ida (Elsie)	1 st January 1916 – 17 th March 2016
Gregory, Thomas Arthur	20 th January 1950 – 3 rd March 2016
Cooper, Paul Desmond	20 th December 1950 – 25 th March 2013
Potter, Robert	20 th December 1922 – 24 th March 2020



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.

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

APRIL

Epsom, Gordon John	13 th January 1919 – 19 th April 1985
London, Stanley Arthur James	4 th September 1910 – 6 th April 2003
Wright, Paul Middleton	25 th December 1940 – 6 th April 2003
Twydell, Horace Walter	13 th April 1922 – 27 th April 2004
Wellsted, Rod Edward	27 th March 1937 – 20 th April 2005
Gaunt, Rober George Armstrong	28 th June 1922 – 20 th April 2005
Moxon, George	13 th May 1916 – 24 th April 2006
Van Shaik, Paul Nicholas	27 th July 1951 – 26 th April 2006
Arkininstall, Betty	16 th January 1924 – 7 th April 2006
Baker, Mary	3 rd December 1909 – 7 th April 2007
Ireland, Paul Giuseppe	19 th December 1965 – 17 th April 2007
Pudney, Jean	31 st January 1924 – 21 st April 2010
Parker, Jenny	23 rd December 1953 – 29 th April 2011
Bradley, Michael	26 th May 1931 – 10 th April 2013
Cole, Mark Richard Morris	27 th December 1940 – 24 th April 2014
Burrage, Ruby	19 th August 1921 – 11 th April 2002
Kitson, Joan Rose	28 th August 1931 – 6 th April 2016
Isherwood, Dr. Michael Colin	16 th June 1945 – 14 th April 2012

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

FUNERALS

12th February

Jean Hallett

13th February

Margaret Shepherd

'Rest in peace and rise in glory.'



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

REGULAR SERVICES

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



**MUSIC AND READINGS
FOR PALM SUNDAY
Sunday 24th March 6:30pm**

Please come and join the choir to enjoy specially selected music and readings for Palm Sunday. All welcome.

MAGAZINE DEADLINE

Final day for items for the MAY-JUNE edition:

SUNDAY 14TH APRIL

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.