

Welcome to St Leonard's. If you're here for the first time or visiting, please say hello.

The nave will usually be open for private prayer & reflection on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday mornings, and Sunday afternoons.

Please note that this may be subject to change at short notice.

THIS SUNDAY'S SERVICES

9:45am **Parish Eucharist** with Junior Church
(486, 598, 709, 489, 221, 507, Webster Mass)
5:30pm **Evensong and Sermon**
(769, 221, 216, 218, Psalm 142)

PRAYER DIARY & EVENTS

SUNDAY 14th - we pray for the parishes of Lexden & Shrub End.

MONDAY – in the Anglican Communion we pray for The Diocese of Doko: The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion).

8:45am Morning Prayer

TUESDAY - we pray for staff and residents at Hargood Close.

8:45am Morning Prayer.

WEDNESDAY – in the Colchester Deanery we pray for the Parish of New Town and the Hythe (St Stephen's) Curates Revd Dan Cant & Revd Belinda Kerins.

9:30am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall.

10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee.

11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall.

THURSDAY - we pray for the Colchester Debt Centre.

8:00am Eucharist.

FRIDAY - we pray for all who work in the civil service.

SATURDAY - we pray for the residents of Christine Chase and Oaklands Avenue.

8:30am Women's Breakfast.

Services next Sunday:

21st April – 4th Sunday of Easter

8:00am BCP Holy Communion

9:45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church

NEWS AND EVENTS

The next **Women's Breakfast** is on Saturday 20th April in the Church. Contact maggie@stleonardslexden.org.uk for more details.

Confirmation Service – we are delighted that 5 candidates are to be presented for confirmation in a service in St Leonard's at 7:30pm on Monday 22nd April. Please pray for Suzette, Lowena, Mathaniah, Micaiah and Amy Louise as they prepare for this important step on their Christian journey and come along to support them on the 22nd.

This year's **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** takes place on Sunday 28th April at 12:00pm. Please make every effort to attend if you are able. There are nomination forms for churchwardens, deanery synod representatives and PCC members at the back of Church. Copies of the annual report will be available at the back of Church from next Sunday or via <http://www.stleonardslexden.org.uk/apcm/>

Christian Aid - Christian Aid 2024 week takes place from 12th-18th May. On Saturday 11th May we are holding a coffee morning to start our fundraising off with a bang! If you can help support this please speak to Rosemary Elden.

Summer Fete – this year's summer fete will take place on Saturday 29th June. Please speak to Robin if you are able to help in any way.

Among those for whom we pray are:

David Moxon, Margaret Cox, Kim Harding, Paul Fordham, Chris Tyler, Brenda Cant, Peter Hazlewood, Frances Bonner, Maureen Watkins, Antonia Loxley, Kim Kite, Velma Bryant, Mary Beavan, Pauline Jarvis, Michael Eavery, Freddie Woolard, Jacquie, Ashley Hanmer, Max, Jill Farley, Jan Buckley, Tony Gurney, Shirley Everitt, Stella Llewellyn, Pat Hughes, Doreen Mayes, Matthew Simpkins, Carole Durrant, Holly Donovan, Win Kenway, Freda and Ernest Jenkins, Ellen Whalley, Nick Leaning, Pam Hatherly, Owen Shepherd, Frances Dowson, Joan Collis, and those others known to us.

Those who have died & those who mourn them: Dimitri Annan, Michael Baldwin, Frank Smyth-Britt, Margaret Leaning

The Church has a card reader available for contactless payments. Please ask if you need help using it and also Gift Aid your donation if you are able to. Donations can also be made online via our website <http://www.stleonardslexden.org.uk/>

COLLECT & READINGS (3rd Sunday of Easter)

Collect

Almighty Father,
who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples
with the sight of the risen Lord:
give us such knowledge of his presence with us,
that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen
life
and serve you continually in righteousness and truth;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Post Communion Prayer

Risen Christ,
you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope:
strengthen us to proclaim your risen life
and fill us with your peace,
to the glory of God the Father.

Acts 3.12–19 (New Testament, p129)

When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, ‘You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

‘And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.

Psalm 4 (Old Testament, p520)

Answer me when I call, O God of my right!
You gave me room when I was in distress.
Be gracious to me, and hear my prayer.

How long, you people, shall my honour suffer shame?
How long will you love vain words, and seek after
lies? Selah
But know that the Lord has set apart the faithful for
himself;
the Lord hears when I call to him.

When you are disturbed, do not sin;
ponder it on your beds, and be silent. Selah
Offer right sacrifices,

and put your trust in the Lord.

There are many who say, ‘O that we might see some good!

Let the light of your face shine on us, O Lord!’
You have put gladness in my heart
more than when their grain and wine abound.

I will both lie down and sleep in peace;
for you alone, O Lord, make me lie down in safety.

1 John 3.1–7 (New Testament p258)

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

Luke 24.36b–48 (New Testament p96)

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, ‘Peace be with you. ‘They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, ‘Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.’ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, ‘Have you anything here to eat?’ They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, ‘These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.’ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.