

**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

8:00am **BCP Holy Communion**

9:45am **Parish Eucharist** with Junior Church

(671, 794, 806, 664, 502, 650, Webster Mass)

### PRAYER DIARY & EVENTS

**SUNDAY 21<sup>st</sup>** - we pray for the parishes of Lexden & Shrub End.

**MONDAY** – in the Anglican Communion we pray for The Diocese of Dunedin: The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia.

8:45am Morning Prayer

7:30pm Confirmation Service

**TUESDAY** - we pray for staff and residents at New Hythe.

8:45am Morning Prayer.

**WEDNESDAY** – in the Colchester Deanery we pray all retired clergy.

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 Methodist Church.

8:00am Eucharist.

**FRIDAY** - we pray for all teachers and lecturers.

1:00pm Funeral of Michael Baldwin RIP.

**SATURDAY** - we pray for the residents of Church Lane and Parsons Hill.

#### Services next Sunday:

**28<sup>th</sup> April – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

9:45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church

12:00pm APCM Meeting

5:30pm Eucharist for Wholeness and Healing

### NEWS AND EVENTS

**Pot Luck Lunch** – thanks to everyone who supported the Pot Luck Lunch which raised over £500 for Christian Aid. Special thanks to Linda, Julie and Mike for a lovely lunch and all their hard work to make it happen.

**Confirmation Service** – we are delighted that 5 candidates are to be presented for confirmation in a service in St Leonard's at 7:30pm tomorrow. 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 at the service tomorrow.

This year's **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** takes place next Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> 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 are also available at the back of Church or via

<http://www.stleonardslexden.org.uk/apcm/>

**Christian Aid** - Christian Aid 2024 week takes place from 12<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> May. On Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> June. Please speak to Robin if you are able to help in any way.

### Among those for whom we pray are:

Maureen Granger, David Moxon, Margaret Cox, Kim Harding, Paul Fordham, Chris Tyler, 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 (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter)

### **Collect**

Almighty God,  
whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life:

raise us, who trust in him,  
from the death of sin to the life of righteousness,  
that we may seek those things which are above,  
where he reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Risen Christ,  
faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep:  
teach us to hear your voice  
and to follow your command,  
that all your people may be gathered into one flock,  
to the glory of God the Father.

### **Acts 4.5–12 (New Testament, p129)**

The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, 'By what power or by what name did you do this?' Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, 'Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is "the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone."  
There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.'

### **Psalm 23 (Old Testament, p531)**

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters;  
he restores my soul.  
He leads me in right paths  
for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I fear no evil;  
for you are with me;

your rod and your staff—  
they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord  
my whole life long.

### **I John 3.16–24 (New Testament p259)**

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

### **John 10.11–18 (New Testament p111)**

'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.'