

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 **Easter Eucharist & Blessing of the Easter Garden**

(205, 216, 818, 212, 219, 218, Webster Mass)

PRAYER DIARY & EVENTS

SUNDAY 20th - we pray for the parishes of Lexden & Shrub End.

MONDAY – in the Anglican Communion we pray for The Diocese of Mbeere: The Anglican Church of Kenya.

TUESDAY - we pray for staff and pupils at Kingswode Hoe School.

WEDNESDAY – in the Colchester Deanery we pray for the Parish Of Myland (St Michael) PIC Revd Ray Gibbs and Associate Priest Revd Hazel Greenland.

THURSDAY - we pray for the Church Army.

FRIDAY - we pray for all who work in our universities and colleges.

SATURDAY - we pray for the residents of Deburgh Road and Shelley Road.

8:30am Women's Breakfast

Services next Sunday:

27th April – 2nd Sunday of Easter

9:45am Parish Eucharist with Junior Church

5:30pm Eucharist for Wholeness & Healing

NEWS AND EVENTS

Many thanks to Peter and his team for the beautiful flowers in Church today and to everyone who donated towards the cost.

Today is the last day for applications to join the Electoral Roll – if you wish to be included please post your form in the box at the back of Church (full details below).

Weekday Services – there will be no weekday services this week. The office will be closed from Maundy Thursday until Thursday 24th April.

The next **Women's Breakfast** is on Saturday 26th April in the Church. Contact maggie@stleonardslexden.org.uk for details.

Help with Teas & Coffees following 09:45 Eucharists - we are in need of additional helpers to assist with serving refreshments on Sunday mornings on a rota basis. If you could help with this please speak to Kathleen Scrimgeour – 01206-574797.

The funeral of **Nick Leaning** will take place at 1:00pm on Thursday 8th May at St Leonard's.

The funeral of **Maureen Watkins** will take place at 4:15pm on Friday 9th May at St Leonard's.

Revision of the Church Electoral Roll 2025: Our Electoral Roll is to be completely revised before this year's Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 18th May. If you are baptised, attend St Leonard's Church, and are aged sixteen or above, you are encouraged to enter your name on the new roll by completing and signing an application form. Forms and a collecting box are available in church or from the website <https://www.stleonardslexden.org.uk/APCM/>. If your name is on the existing roll you will still need to re-apply, please; this is a full revision. There are further details in the March/April Magazine. Please ensure that all forms are returned by **Sunday 20th April**.

Summer Fayre – this year's summer fayre will take place on Saturday 28th June, please save the date in your diaries. We are looking for people to have an advertising board in their gardens to help advertise the Fete, please speak to Nick if you are able to help. Our 9.45am service is live-streamed each Sunday to include those who are unable to join with us in person. If you prefer not to be on camera, please sit behind the front five rows of the nave. We are happy to provide Holy Communion to you in your pew, just let a steward or warden know.

Among those for whom we pray are:

Jane Scott-Thompson, Angela Sargent, Jean Holden, Father David Armstrong, Dick Verrier, Richard, Derek Cowie, Johanne Bresch, Lionel Simpkins, Brian Root, Katrina Light, Joseph, David Moxon, Kim Harding, Graham Tyler, Jenny and Peter Hazlewood, Frances Bonner, Antonia Loxley, Janice, Kim Kite, Hugh and Mary Beavan, Michael Eavery, Freddie Woolard, Jacquie, Ashley Hanmer, Jan Buckley, Tony Gurney, Shirley Everitt, Stella Llewellyn, Pat Hughes, Doreen Mayes, Holly Donovan, Win Kenway, Freda and Ernest Jenkins, Ellen Whalley, Pam Hatherly, Owen Shepherd, Frances Dowson, Joan Collis, and those others known to us.

Those who have died & those who mourn them: Maureen Watkins, Nick Leaning, Mick Lavelle.

COLLECT & READINGS (Easter Sunday)

Collect

Lord of all life and power,
who through the mighty resurrection of your Son
overcame the old order of sin and death
to make all things new in him:
grant that we, being dead to sin
and alive to you in Jesus Christ,
may reign with him in glory;
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be praise and honour, glory and might,
now and in all eternity.

Post Communion Prayer

God of glory,
by the raising of your Son
you have broken the chains of death and hell:
fill your Church with faith and hope;
for a new day has dawned
and the way to life stands open
in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Isaiah 65.17–end (Old Testament, p722)

The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, For I am about
to create new heavens
and a new earth;
the former things shall not be remembered
or come to mind.
But be glad and rejoice for ever
in what I am creating;
for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy,
and its people as a delight.
I will rejoice in Jerusalem,
and delight in my people;
no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it,
or the cry of distress.
No more shall there be in it
an infant that lives but a few days,
or an old person who does not live out a lifetime;
for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth,
and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.
They shall build houses and inhabit them;
they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.
They shall not build and another inhabit;
they shall not plant and another eat;
for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be,
and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.
They shall not labour in vain,
or bear children for calamity;
for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord—
and their descendants as well.
Before they call I will answer,
while they are yet speaking I will hear.
The wolf and the lamb shall feed together,
the lion shall eat straw like the ox;
but the serpent—its food shall be dust!
They shall not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
says the Lord.

Psalms 118.1–2, 14–24 (Old Testament, p594)

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures for ever!
Let Israel say,
‘His steadfast love endures for ever.’
The Lord is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.
There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous:
‘The right hand of the Lord does valiantly;
the right hand of the Lord is exalted;
the right hand of the Lord does valiantly.’
I shall not die, but I shall live,

and recount the deeds of the Lord.
The Lord has punished me severely,
but he did not give me over to death.
Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the Lord.
This is the gate of the Lord;
the righteous shall enter through it.
I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.
The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.
This is the Lord’s doing;
it is marvellous in our eyes.
This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Acts 10.34–43 (New Testament, p138)

Then Peter began to speak to them: ‘I truly understand that God
shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and
does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he
sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is
Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in
Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed
Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went
about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil,
for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in
Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a
tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to
appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as
witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the
dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that
he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead.
All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him
receives forgiveness of sins through his name.’

John 20.1–18 (new Testament p123)

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary
Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been
removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and
the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them,
‘They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know
where they have laid him.’ Then Peter and the other disciple set out
and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but
the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent
down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did
not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the
tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had
been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up
in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb
first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not
understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the
disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent
over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting
where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the
other at the feet. They said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping?’
She said to them, ‘They have taken away my Lord, and I do not
know where they have laid him.’ When she had said this, she turned
round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it
was Jesus. Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping? For
whom are you looking?’ Supposing him to be the gardener, she said
to him, ‘Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have
laid him, and I will take him away.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Mary!’ She
turned and said to him in Hebrew, ‘Rabbouni!’ (which means
Teacher). Jesus said to her, ‘Do not hold on to me, because I have
not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to
them, “I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and
your God.”’ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples,
‘I have seen the Lord’; and she told them that he had said these
things to her.