



THE PARISH CHURCH OF
ST LEONARD, LEXDEN

ORDINARY PEOPLE. EXTRAORDINARY GOD.

SUMMER FETE

SATURDAY 28TH JUNE

11:00AM – 2:00PM



PARISH MAGAZINE

MAY-JUNE 2025 £1.00



Forget “normal”: God wants an atmosphere of acceptance.

A few years ago, I was privileged to visit the Cathedral Archer project in Sheffield. This project seeks to help homeless and vulnerable people achieve a better life by supporting them to develop their independence and well-being, and equipping them to tackle setbacks. It does so by offering access to cooked meals, accredited courses, doctors and dentists, telephones and computers – facilities which we take for granted, but which are very difficult to access without a fixed address.

During my visit, four employees of the project – each of whom had been a client in the past - spoke very candidly about their lives. What they communicated very movingly was both their sense of hope and their sense of realism. Many of those who use the project have been affected by addiction. Those employees I met had been too.

What struck me most powerfully about the project was that its focus wasn't imposing or establishing standards of “normal” behaviour or “normal” life; rather the project strives to maintain an atmosphere of acceptance. For many of those clients whose struggles with addiction are on-going, having a standard of “normality” imposed upon them is not only unhelpful but actually counterproductive. And it was very clear that this atmosphere of true acceptance had been extremely important for those four employees.

This is a Christian-rooted project, and I was told that those parts of the Gospel where Jesus meets the outcasts of 1st century Palestine - loving them as he finds them – are the chief inspiration behind this atmosphere of acceptance. I found myself wondering whether when I've read these passages, I've lazily assumed that after having sat with Jesus these prostitutes, tax collectors, and other reviled people simply conformed to the "normal" lifestyle of their time. I wonder what the reality was?

All this is a reminder that in all we do as Christians, whether at our Summer Fayre, social action, in worship or whatever, we must guard against expecting that those we encounter should simply be conformed to our standard of "normal". Instead, the only expectation that matters is that God's love for them should be made real.

Each of us may have a very clear understanding of what we enjoy or value in worship or in our Christian life, but if that understanding should get in the way of an atmosphere of true acceptance and welcome, then it's time for us to reflect on whether it is an understanding shared by God.

St Leonard's has a wonderful understanding – and practise – of welcome, but the work is never done: we must always put these questions to ourselves in everything we do.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt". The letters are cursive and fluid, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the latest edition of the Church Magazine. Winter is well and truly behind us, and we can look forward to summer. But before I go any further, I would like to pay tribute to the late Maureen Watkins who sadly passed in early April, she was a stalwart of this Church for many years and will be sadly missed, our thoughts are with her husband David and his family.

In this edition we look back at the events of Easter and look forward to what we have planned in the months ahead. We start with a special service and afternoon tea to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the end of the war in Europe and then at the end of June we have our Summer Fayre.

Add to that our Baby & Toddler group, which continues to meet on Wednesdays during term time and Brick Club on Tuesdays during the school holidays.

We are always looking for additional volunteers to help with our weekly services, either reading a lesson, acting as sidesperson, being part of the choir or helping within the service. If you feel you would like to get involved just speak to any of the wardens or the Parish administrator.

Enjoy the Magazine

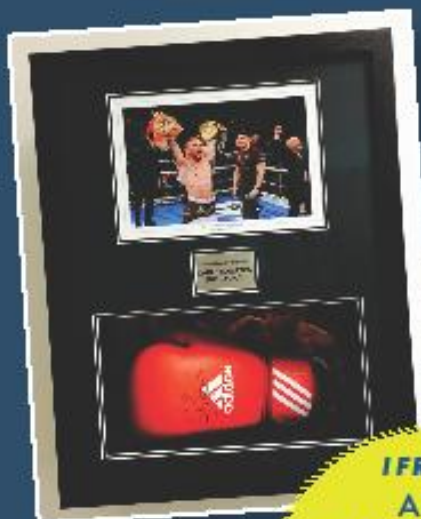
Mike

**Crossword Solution
(from last magazine)**

•Cards•
•Framing•
•Gallery•

SEBASTIAN WARNER *Framing*

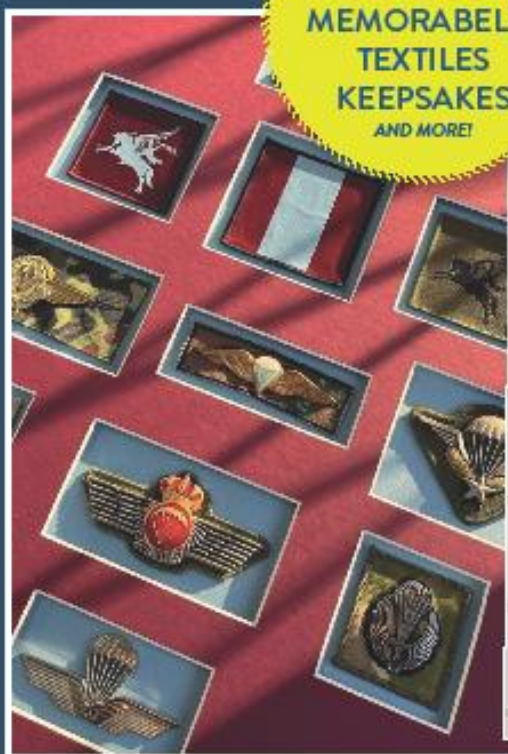
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MAY-JUNE DIARY

Thursday 1st May

8.00am Eucharist

Saturday 3rd May

8:30am Men's Breakfast

SUNDAY 4th May – 3rd Sunday of Easter

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9:45am ALL-AGE PARISH EUCHARIST

Tuesday 6th May

11:30am Holy Communion at Cheviot

7.30pm 'Medley' house group (Rosemary 515245)

Wednesday 7th May

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 May

8:00am Eucharist

1:00pm Funeral of Nick Leaning RIP

Friday 9th May

4:15pm Funeral of Maureen Watkins RIP

SUNDAY 11th May – 4th Sunday of Easter

9.45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church

3:00pm VE80 Celebration Service followed by Tea

3:00pm SYLC in the hall

Wednesday 14th May

9:30am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee

11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

Thursday 15th May

8.00am Eucharist

Saturday 17th May

9:00am Parish Breakfast in Aid of Christian Aid

SUNDAY 18th May – 5th Sunday of Easter

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9:45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church

11:30am APCM

Wednesday 21st May

9:30am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee

11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

7:00pm Bible Study Group

Thursday 22nd May

8:00am Eucharist

SUNDAY 25th May – 6th Sunday of Easter

9.45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church

5.30pm Eucharist for Wholeness & Healing

Tuesday 27th May

10:00am Brick Club

Wednesday 28th May

10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee

Thursday 29th May

7:30pm Eucharist for the Feast of the Ascension

SUNDAY 1st June – 7th Sunday of Easter

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9:45am ALL-AGE PARISH EUCHARIST

Tuesday 3rd June

11:30am Holy Communion at Cheviot

7.30pm 'Medley' house group (Rosemary 515245)

Wednesday 4th June

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 6th June

8.00am Eucharist

Saturday 7th June

8:30am Men's Breakfast

SUNDAY 8th June – Pentecost

9.45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church

12:00pm Baptism of Thea, Ayda and Myla

5.30pm Evensong & Sermon

Wednesday 11th June

9:30am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee

11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

Thursday 12th June

8.00am Eucharist

SUNDAY 15th June – Trinity Sunday

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9:45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church

Wednesday 18th June

9:30am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee

11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

7:00pm Bible Study Group

Thursday 19th June

8.00am Eucharist

Saturday 21st June

8:30am Women's Breakfast

SUNDAY 22nd June – 1st Sunday after Trinity

9.45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church

5.30pm Eucharist for Wholeness & Healing

Wednesday 25th June

9:30am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee

11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

Thursday 26th June

8.00am Eucharist

Friday 27th June

10:00am Church open for Fete Donations

Saturday 28th June

11:00am Summer Fete

SUNDAY 30th June – Peter and Paul

9.45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church

MAGAZINE DEADLINE

Final day for items for the JULY-AUGUST
edition:

SUNDAY 8TH JUNE

Please submit items to the Editor
email: magazine@stleonardslexden.org.uk



80th

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**ANNIVERSARY
OF VE DAY**

ST LEONARD'S, LEXDEN
3PM SUNDAY 11TH MAY 2025
COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE
(RECREATING THE CELEBRATION SERVICE OF 1945)

FOLLOWED BY A CELEBRATORY 1940'S TEA
PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU HOPE TO JOIN US FOR TEA,
SO WE CAN CATER FOR EVERYONE
TELEGRAPH US AT ADMIN@STLEONARDSLEXDEN.ORG.UK



MOUSE TAILS

St. Leonard's Church mice enjoyed a splendid Easter celebration. Most of the mouse community from the Church, Hall, Woods and Outdoors all came together for the special Easter Service, conducted by Grandad as usual and once all the human congregation had left for the day.

It started by gathering in the Hall and greeting everyone then they made their way in procession to the Church. Wandering around they admired all the flower displays. Grandad welcomed them all and invited all to join him in prayers of thanks for surviving another year and for the friendship of their community. Little Johnny Mouthorgan blew a few bars of music, and the choir sang one of their favourite hymns, All Things Bright and Beautiful, all the congregation joined in.

After the Service the mice all processed to the Hall for their Easter banquet. There had been good scavenging all day in the Church grounds. Quite a lot of bits of hard-boiled eggs had been spotted and quickly collected by the fastest mice during the annual egg rolling event and pieces of Hot Cross buns and, much to the youngsters' delight, pieces of chocolate eggs. As a special surprise a mystery gift of chocolate mini eggs had been left in the Balcony for the mice to find.



On entering the Hall, the first thing everyone saw was the special Easter tree which the youngsters had made. It was quite tall, made up from twigs of Broom tied together with string and "planted" in a plant pot. They had

decorated the tree with ribbons, painted bits of bird eggs and miniature cards, it was a truly impressive sight. The girl mice had made up tiny bunches of wild flowers tied with string to give to the Mums who were thrilled to receive them. The young girl mice had decided to make their own little Easter bonnets and paraded around the Hall showing off their concoctions. All the mice applauded their efforts.



Next was the feasting and an excellent banquet had been prepared by the Mums. Big plates of watercress and wild herb salads scattered with tiny pieces of hardboiled egg and a splendid cake made up of crumbs of biscuits, hot cross buns and seeds.



Once everyone had eaten and drunk the elderberry wine, elderflower cordial and acorn beer the parents needed to sit and chat for a while, but the youngsters were ready for games. They played all the old favourites, pin the tail on the cat, musical bumps, statues and chase. After this they were all tired and thirsty, so Mums supplied water for them and every young mouse had a small piece of chocolate.

The choir and music group then entertained everyone with their favourite tunes while they all sang along, some of the younger grown-ups enjoyed a dance or two.

As it got later the youngest of mice were nodding off, so their Mums put them to bed in the cosy nests they had made up earlier. It wasn't much later when the elders declared themselves full and worn out and all headed for their beds to dream of the wonderful day it had been.

CT

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A Prayer to Sustain You

Gill read this prayer at our Women's Breakfast group last month. It was written by her son Colin at a difficult time in his life and he hopes that by sharing it he can help someone else in their time of need.

Dear Lord, grant me the wisdom to make good choices, the strength to face challenges and a heart that flows with love and kindness.

Help me to be a source of positivity and encouragement to those I encounter. May this day be filled with purpose, joy and blessings.

I seek to connect with the beauty and wisdom of the nature that surrounds me. Help me to see the sacredness in every tree, every river and in all creatures, great and small. May I walk in harmony with the earth, responding in harmony with the life that sustains me.

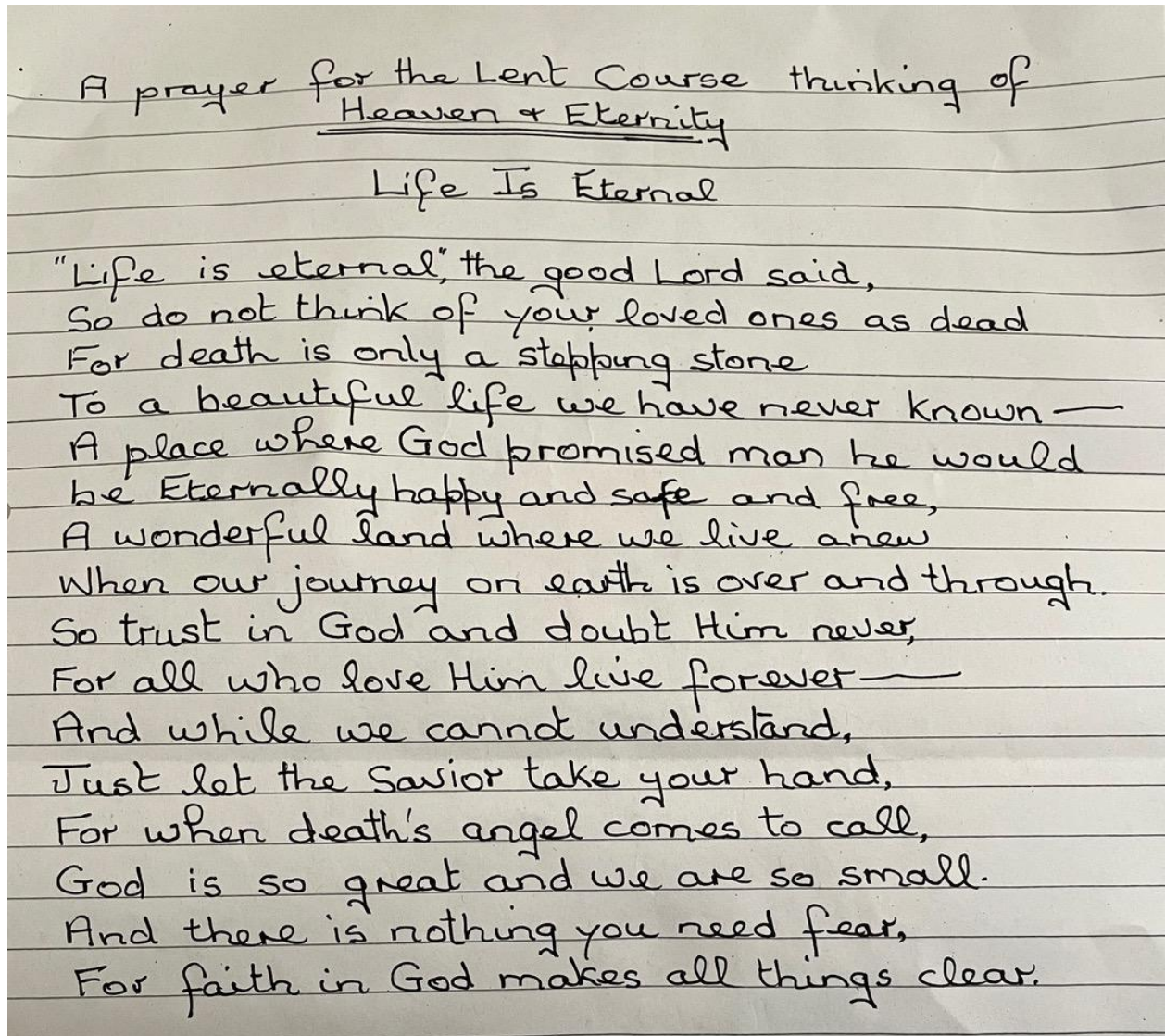
As I walk the path of life, I seek God's guidance to show me the way I should go and help me to follow it with wisdom and humility. May my steps be guided by your light and may I always be mindful of the lessons which come to me.

Mother Earth, I thank you for your beauty and for all that God has given to me. Remind me never to take from you more than I need and to always give back more than I take.

Amen

Hearing God in Lent - Hearing God in Poetry

At the recent Lent course, some of the participants wrote their own poems to express their thoughts on Heaven and Eternity. They have kindly agreed to share them with us.



Jane

As I work on earth
Robin, feel your song there
Flutter gone. Still here.

Jo

My Lord, you're there in the morning,
As the day is dawning,
And as I lay on my bed,
With a prayer inside my head,
I know your standing beside me.

As I go down the stairs,
With the day ahead to prepare,
I don't know what you've planned, you see,
what's to happen or your will be,
But I know, your there for me.

As the day goes on,
And things have gone wrong,
For everyone I must stay strong,
But, when the tears start to flow,
I know you'll wipe them for me.

As the evening comes,
And I'm all weary and torn,
Tired and worn,
But no rest for me can be,
I know you'll comfort me.

As I go to bed,
With a prayer in my head,
To say thank you, for the day I've had,
knowing that I'll never walk alone,
As I know you'll be there, to carry me.

And as I sleep at night,
With my eyes shut tight,
All cosy and warm in my bed,
Not a worry or care to be,
For I know you'll always be loving and watching over me.

And when my time is near,
Your voice I'd like to hear,
Come, to me, my little one,
It's time to rest and have some fun,
Your Angel wings are ready, so you can be free,
To come truly, to love, to worship me.

Mandy

APCM - SUNDAY 18TH MAY 2025

All are welcome to attend our Annual Parochial Church Meeting which will take place in church at 11:45am on Sunday 18th May 2025

The financial statements and the parish reports relate to the calendar year 2024. Once completed and agreed, paperwork will be posted on the APCM area of our website by Sunday 11th May. 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 4th May, when hardcopies of the forms will also be available at the back of the nave.

The 2024 financial statement and report is required to be available for at least 7 days before the meeting. By Sunday 11th May, 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.



Christian Aid week takes place from 11th – 17th 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.

Every May, churches, and individuals across the UK, Republic of Ireland and the world host a huge range of fundraising events, making Christian Aid Week one of the biggest acts of Christian witness in the British Isles.

PARISH BREAKFAST

At 9:00am on Saturday 17th May we will be holding a Parish Breakfast to raise money to help fund the charity's work with local partners and communities to fight injustice, respond to humanitarian emergencies,

campaign for change, and help people claim the services and rights they are entitled to.

We will be offering

- *Fruit juice*
- *Cereals*
- *Eggs & Bacon*
- *Pastries*
- *Fruit & yogurt*
- *Tea/coffee*

All donations will go Christian Aid.

Please come along and bring your friends and family.



TRIBUTES TO PAULINE JARVIS

Louise has kindly given us permission to reproduce the tributes given at Pauline's funeral.

The One who was Loved.

There are so many ways I could share about my mum, different threads, different stories but a phrase that I have kept coming back to over these last few weeks is that she was a woman who was loved. In the many situations and places in her life, she may not have always seen it, but the evidence was there... she was always loved.

It would be remiss of me not to start with children. Children loved her... She loved them, and they knew it. She would make a b-line for any baby, toddler, child and they often would make a b-line for her! I know there was the disappointment of no grandchildren (sorry mum!), but she surrounded herself with others. She was never happier than when she was in the midst of children - encouraging them, comforting them and providing creative play where they could explore and have fun.

She loved encouraging their creativity. She spent many an hour at home sitting on the floor surrounded by cut out bits of card & tissue paper as she developed new activities for different groups to do that gave children fun and learning and allowed them to express themselves.

Having linked with the nursery in Pretty Gate when Tania & I were there. She quietly, diligently and faithfully served there after we had moved on to school, eventually running it. A doctor we visited in the last couple of years beamed as we came into her office. She shared how her child had gone to mum's playgroup many years earlier and what a wonderful time that had there. She smiled as she recounted the different artwork brought home and how her child had always been excited on 'nursery day',

Mum went on to nanny for many children, meeting them in their home and loving them there, supporting both parents and children through just being herself. And they loved her. She always talked fondly of these times and the children she had cared for, never forgetting them. She loved to receive updates and news of their lives.

St Leonard's was of course a key part of her life. This church loved her.

The support given through difficult times was invaluable for her and as you loved on her, she was able to step more into all she could be. Through time with children (obviously!) in Mums & Tots and 7th Heaven she continued to be loved. Also, the drama group reignited the gift of acting she had adored when she was a child. Having been encouraged at school to pursue acting, she had never been able to due to family circumstances, but she loved being on stage and loved being welcomed into the group here.

People showed their love for her through different and abundant generosity - through invitations, visits and lifts and even through paying and supporting her to visit the Holy Lands. This was one of the most precious times for her and she cherished being able to go with friends and walk in the places there. She talked about how she had really felt closer to God through the experiences of visiting the different sites – this precious gift showed her how much she was loved.

One of her proudest days was when she became a lay reader. Looking back through the photos of that day, you see the complete joy she had and pride in her accomplishment. It was the love and support by so many members of the church that provided what she needed through the tough times that enabled her to achieve her goal. And after, she threw herself into serving in that role and delighted to give back to the church in this way.

In addition to church, many other friends loved her.

Growing up I remember the annual Boxing Day drinks where our house was filled to the brim of people enjoying themselves. Mum loved the opportunity to serve and there was that love of her. She valued the many meet ups with friends... at parties, 'posh dos', drinks round people's houses or in coffee shops in town, she loved being with friends. Many stayed connected with her over the decades, through the rough and the smooth. Those here today who had the joy and frustration of loving her, know that despite it all I think she knew she was loved.

And family, people dear to her heart also really loved her. Because of who she was, she was well loved on all sides of the family.

The wrench she felt with the separation from her sister who lived in the US, was softened by the few visits she was able to have and the hours of catchups on the phone, both with her sister and her nieces.

And happy times in Mersea and Peldon was something she held close to her heart. Fun times at Christmas and summer BBQ's with family that welcomed her in and stuck with her through it all.

In her later years, it also was obvious that her carers loved her... So many amazing people came into her life initially through Support at Home and then as she moved into the Wymeswold care home near me for her final few months. The team at Home Instead enabled her to stay in her flat for as long as possible, something so important to her – she loved that flat! Both these amazing teams did more than care for her, they loved her, and her last few years and months were made better for this love.

Standing here, I am so proud to be called her daughter, and I really did love her. She was to me, one of the strongest women I know, despite her outward appearance and demeanor she was a rock, for me and many others. She provided a home where there was safety and carried many burdens, so her daughters did not have to. Looking back, I see how she protected me from so much and instilled in me many of the values I hold dear today.

And now she rests. I miss her and will continue to. But I know she is free. Free from dementia, from anxiety and free to dance with the angels (a phrase I got as she died).

So why was she so loved? - because she was a woman who loved.

Mum had so much love to give, her greatest joy was loving and serving others. Her God-given creative skills in drama, art, sewing, flower arranging and writing (as shown even here in this service) were used by her to love others.

Mum was a woman who knew pain and sadness, but she was a woman who loved.

Her love overflowed from the one loving God who she loves and who deeply loves her. A Father who was her rock through the tough times and her delight in the times of joy. Her joy was serving Him.

Now I know she is fully surrounded by that love... one that even she cannot deny. Where she can finally rest in His arms as He holds her tight and says, “well done, good and faithful servant... you are loved”.

What is a Friend? – a tribute from Maggie

Have you ever stopped to think about - what is a friend? I have been thinking about this quite a lot recently - of course it's someone you love, but also someone you trust, someone with whom you have a great bond.

I started to get to know my dear friend, Pauline, when she joined the Lexden Parish Players back in 1984 - not only was she a really accomplished actor but she was

always word perfect, not only with her own lines but also call of her cue lines - putting me to shame!

Perfection was important to Pauline, and I think perhaps this was as a result of her life experiences and relationships. From the way she dressed - immaculately- to the way she arranged flowers - meticulously - to writing a sermon, she would spend hours making sure it was just right - she could agonise for ages over a certain word or phrase.

Our friendship grew and deepened when we travelled and studied together to the Christian Studies Course in Elmstead Market. We had the most wonderful, searching theological and 'not-so' theological discussions - not always agreeing but learning how important it is to be open to what others think. We shared many personal joys and sorrows knowing we could always rely on each other's love and support.

Most weeks we would meet up for coffee and of course had to indulge in Pauline's favourite past-time - clothes shopping - and I have to say I miss her expert eye. Our usual haunt was the fashion floor at Willie Gees and Pauline could always justify buying something new.

And of course, St Leonard's was at the centre of Pauline's faith, her friendships and fun at many church events - we actually managed to persuade her to organise a flower festival - she never thought she was good enough or capable enough - but of course she was.

When Pauline & Robin hit hard times, Pauline literally worked all the hours that God made to help keep the ship afloat - she was incredible. However, she would never let anything interfere with her responsibility for the Baby & Toddler group. Pauline had a natural affinity with children - she just loved them - she looked after my son Dan until he was six months old and continued to keep an eye on him as his Godmother - she would have loved dressing up for his wedding but unfortunately, she was too ill.

Pauline was a complex person - full of contradictions, but those of us who knew her just used to say, "but she's our Pauline and we love her." To sum Pauline up she could be annoying, frustrating, worried about what people thought and stubborn - above all though she was loving, caring, thoughtful and had a great sense of fun. Above all she was my friend, and my life has been the richer for it. God bless you dear friend - rest in Jesus and be at peace.

Tribute from Revd Canon Stephen Carter

I love the story behind Handel's composition of "Messiah". The words for the oratorio had been given to him by Charles Jennens, one of his patrons. This was followed by a burst of creative activity. Handel completed "Messiah" in just 24 days, with very little sleep and often going days without meals.

Whilst writing the Halleluia chorus, his servant found him overwhelmed and with tears in his eyes. Handel said "I did think I did see all heaven before me and the great God himself seated on his throne with his company of angels"

If ever a piece of music was inspired, this was. And it is easy to believe what Handel claimed, when he said he had a vision of heaven when writing it.

Our Bible reading from Revelation is a vision of heaven- written by John on the island of Patmos, at a time when the church was enduring great suffering. It is part of a mysterious book, the last book of the Bible, which is a really a series of visions. Chapter 21 gives us a sublime vision of what lays in store when the whole of creation is brought into unity with the loving purposes of God.

At the heart of the Christian faith is the resurrection of Jesus. We face death and the death of those we love in the light of Easter. And because we believe Jesus rose from death, we believe that we too will rise. But more than this, that the whole creation will be renewed. Our reading speaks of a new heaven and a new earth in which there will be no more crying or pain, no more weeping and suffering. This is a vision and a hope that I believe Pauline never lost, even in her darkest moments.

Pauline loved Easter. In Holy Week she would come to St Leonard's every day. She knew that we cannot experience the joy of the resurrection unless we have first walked the way of the cross. One of her many creative gifts was flower arranging: and her beautiful arrangements enabled her to express something of that Easter hope.

Towards the end of the 1990s, it was during a parish retreat at Pleshey, that Pauline felt that God was calling her to some form of lay ministry within the church. After the usual processes of discernment and training, Pauline was licensed in the Cathedral as a Reader in 2001. She exercised this ministry at St Leonard's for almost 20 years.

I can still recall some of Pauline's sermons, which were always Biblically based, thoughtful, well-crafted and beautifully delivered. Pauline had a particular gift of preaching at all-age services, when children were present. As this was a gift I did not possess, I was always pleased to off-load these services onto Pauline- particularly the noisy Crib services of Christmas Eve. Pauline took these in her stride. In family

services she made use of her rather Evangelical puppet, Reverend Hogg, who wore a bad taste jumper. He frequently fell out with my own rather more high church puppet, Father Mole.

Over the years, I heard Pauline preach some excellent sermons: she also shared with me some of her writing. I have one poem, which she entitled "The storm" which she wrote in April 2001 when she was licensed as a Reader. It is a fine piece of writing. But it also gives us an insight into Pauline's faith. She always held on to the vision: that whatever storms assailed her, she was being led by the hand of God. I would like to read you a part of it'

"In the centre the Holy Spirit was guiding the storm.

I know, because when I really needed to,

I found I could step through the tempest

and there in the eye could find peace, understanding

and help, to weather other storms in my life.

When those storms threatened to overwhelm me,

the wind would lessen and I could take breath.

But it was still strong enough to move me ever onward,

onward to where God wanted me to go."

As we gather to remember Pauline and to commend her to God, our prayer is that the vision of heaven is now her possession. That the Lord whom she followed so faithfully in this life, will lead her ever onward, to the place where all things are made new.

That she may know the fulness of the love, joy and peace of Christ.

Easter

As always, we
were treated to
an incredible
display of
Easter Flowers



Flowers

Thank you to
Peter and his
team for all
you do to keep
the Church
looking
beautiful



The Power of Storytelling

Children love to listen to stories and what a wealth of stories we have in the bible. In Junior Church our weekly focus is usually based on one of the bible readings that will be read in church. Of course, it's not always the one that the sermon will be based on that morning but it's great when we have both been exploring the same passage.

We use the Roots resources as a starting point in Junior Church and there is usually something that the leader feels she would like to develop in her own way. Storytelling is one of the methods we often



use and we are lucky to have a wonderful set of knitted bible figures made some time ago by church members. With a little imagination, some coloured cloths to set the scene and some simple props we can involve the children in the narrative and begin to explore the story and invite the children to respond.

Some stories are easy to relate to our own lives and experiences but others will provoke more questions than answers. No matter, these conversations help to form a foundation for the children's faith that they can build on as they grow.

In the photo we have been retelling the story of Jesus calling the disciples in Luke 5 and we're now experiencing the difficulties of catching fish!





MAY-JUNE 2025

The Baby and Toddler Group runs in the hall every Wednesday in term time at 9.30am or 11.00am. These sessions are identical. The last session this term is the 16th July. Just turn up!

4 th May	All Age Service
11 th May Junior Church Plus - SLYC Youth Group 3-5pm	Called to Live The story of Dorcas, the disciple
18 th May Junior Church	Making All Things New God's love is for everyone
25 th May Junior Church	Not All Plain Sailing Listening to God's voice
27 th May Brick Club in the hall 10am -12 noon	Just turn up and build!
1 st June	All Age Service
8 th June Junior Church	Unity in Diversity Pentecost
15 th June Junior Church	God Invites Us In Accepting the peace, grace, hope, glory and love of God
22 nd June Junior Church	Change For The Better All who believe in Christ are welcomed as children of God
29 th June Junior Church	Free To Be Kind Loving our neighbours as ourselves
6 th July PLUS - PARISH PICNIC	All Age Service

Messy Last Supper

Our recent Messy Church session focussed on the Last Supper. We made Easter gardens and painty footprints, recreated the empty tomb with icing sugar and biscuits, went on a hunt for the symbols of the Last Supper and drew a beautiful frieze showing everyone seated at the Last Supper table with Jesus.



There were some wonderfully moving moments when the children washed each other's feet and when they considered the



story that would unfold in Holy Week as the Easter gardens were made.

But most of all it was wonderful for 40 people, children and adults, to sit quietly together around a table and share the bread and the grape juice as Jesus and his disciples had done, with Matt as our guide. Thank you too Matt for the bread that you baked during the session. It was delicious!



Baby and Toddler Group



Every Wednesday during term-time
in the Church Hall

Session Times – 9:30am and 11:00am



Find us at www.facebook.com/stleonardsbabyandtoddlergroup

St Leonard's Baby and Toddler Group

The Baby and Toddler group runs every Wednesday morning in term time in the church hall. There are two identical sessions in the morning which run for an hour. One starts at 9.30am and another at 11.00am. The group is well established and there is always a warm welcome for carers and their children. Each session is based on a theme with a range of activities to engage babies and toddlers. We provide tea, coffee and a snack during the session and the children have a great time playing and exploring. The Facebook page gives a flavour of the sessions so do have a look. No need to book. Just turn up.

'Outside Space' – providing a safe Outdoor Play Area



The Baby and Toddler team have long wanted to improve the outside play area for hall users. We have recently been given some money from the Denery Mission Opportunity Fund to provide an outdoor area to the hall which would be between the Hall wall and the Columbarium wall. This would provide all hall users the opportunity to extend their activities to the outside area.

This project will provide a lockable gated entrance and fencing, a mud kitchen and water table for messy play, a canopy to provide shade and ideally a safer surface for playing on. The pictures give an idea of what is being proposed.



However, in order to achieve this, we need to raise some more money! With this in mind we are launching a Fund Raising Appeal called '**Outside Space**'. Please keep an eye out for further details coming soon.



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

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

PCC Charities for 2024-25

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 £925.

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 CMA 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 CMA Debt Centre, formally known as CAP.



Working in partnership with the national charity Community Money Advice, Colchester CMA Debt Centre provides a solution to those with unmanageable debt. We do this by:

- Taking a full picture of a client's finances
- Providing the client with a budget to stick to and a route out of debt
- Supporting discussions between creditors and clients to set up payments
- Providing support through this journey from a team of befrienders and volunteers

We believe that the church in Colchester has been given an amazing opportunity to reach into the lives of those who are suffering and give them the chance to heal and to be free.

'And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.'

Micah 6:8



SUMMER FETE

**ST.
LEONARD'S
CHURCH,
LEXDEN**



**Saturday
28th June**

**11.00 to
14.00**



Tributes to Carole Durrant

Carole's family have kindly given us permission to reproduce the tributes given at her funeral.

On behalf of our family, I get to tell you a bit about mum's life, and the things that were important to her. In such a short time it's difficult to cover everything, but these are the things I think she would like said.

First of all, it's impossible to talk about Mum without saying how proud she was of being Welsh. Of course here in England everyone noticed her accent when they first met her, and she was known for dressing in the bright red of the Welsh flag. Whenever she met anyone else from Wales it would always amuse us that she'd exchange her life story until they found some friend or relative in common. But Mum wasn't born in Wales. At the time her parents Geoffrey and Ngaire - or Nanny Nye and Bampi as we knew them - were managing a hotel in Swiss Cottage, London. Her middle name was taken from the midwife who helped deliver her - Carole Christina Dickenson.

They moved back to Wales and Mum spent her childhood in Tredegar with her younger siblings Vanessa and Noel in a house called Dieu Donne built by her grandfather - a man mum always referred to as Syd "The Builder".

When the time came for university, she moved to Cardiff to study for a Bachelor of Education in food and nutrition to follow a path into teaching. Again she formed lifelong friendships with a group of girls on her course - the "Cooks Girls" - who were a tremendous source of support and fun for Mum. She always looked forward to their annual reunions and when mum became too frail to travel, they even moved the gathering to Colchester for her.

It was remarkable how Mum made close friends at every stage of her life. This was because Mum loved people - she found them fascinating. She liked talking to them, finding out their stories and news. And people loved mum - she was outgoing, cheerful, interested and funny - her sense of humour could even have a bit of a dark

streak. She got involved in all sorts of hobbies - book clubs, badminton, flower arranging just so she could spend more time talking to people.

After university Mum began her career as a Home Economics teacher in Newbury. On the day before term started, she was stood in the headmasters office along with all the other members of staff when she first saw another new teacher - Dad. Before long Mum was taking Dad to Oxford to see one of her favourite acts - the Welsh comedian and singer Max Boyce. Within a few years they were married. The wedding took place on April 1st 1978 at St. George's Church in Tredegar. Fittingly, the church had been rebuilt by her great-grandfather, Syd the builder. As well as April Fool's Day it was also the day of the Grand National. Dad asked Uncle Mike to take him to the bookies before the wedding and though he lost his bet he said he definitely won his other bet that day.

After the wedding Dad left teaching to take over his mother's gift shop and moved to a house not very far away from here in Lexden, where mum started another important relationship in her life, with this church and its community. Mum always had a strong faith and she became an active member of this church, helping with junior church, flower arranging, the soup kitchen, and made lots of friends here including at the Lexden Ladies group. We're especially grateful to Maggie who visited her so frequently in hospital to say prayers with her.

Mum continued her teaching career at St. Benedict's as a Home Economics teacher, and is where she met another of the most important people in her life - the deputy head Margaret - who really was more like a sister to her, and we regard as extended family.

Shortly afterwards Mum had her first child - me. This meant moving to a larger house - in Deben Road - where my sister Laura was born, followed several years later by my other sister Emma-Lucia. There are a lot of good memories from our childhood, many revolving around Mum's Sunday lunches – it was actually a bit heart-breaking when Mum asked me to help her donate her hostess trolley recently, and the instruction manual for it is probably the strangest memento I've kept of her. Mum always catered for all the big family get-togethers including Easters and Christmas when we'd often host our grandmother, uncles, aunts and cousins. I've got especially happy memories of the big barbecues we used to have in the garden, with mum making big batches of Elden Ort's BBQ sauce.

Mum took a break from teaching to help Dad run the shop, managing the upstairs section where she sold clothing, before returning for a final time, this time teaching

at a Pupil Referral Unit in Clacton, working alongside Margaret again, helping children who had been excluded from mainstream education.

Probably the best thing her children ever did for her was to produce her six beloved grandchildren. Each of her children provided two, and she was endlessly interested in each of their lives and different personalities. She was extremely proud of all of them. Most of the phone calls I had with Mum were giving her updates on the grandkids, and some of you have told me that Mum used to give you all the updates too. Her house is full of their photos, whilst pictures of her children were relegated to the conservatory.

Mum was keen that her descendants were aware of their Welsh heritage. When we were children, we regularly drove back to Tredegar - Mum was always pleased that the Severn bridge used to charge the English to enter Wales - and visited Little Ben, which was the name Mum gave to the Clock Tower, presumably to twin it with Big Ben in London. For her grandchildren she started organising family holidays in a big rented house in Crickhowell. We'd go walking up Table Mountain or spend the day damming the river Usk, but she told me that one of her happiest memories was taking her (then only 4) grandchildren to the park where she'd played as a child, and her children had played, and now her grandchildren as well. She remembered sheltering under a tree with them by the castle ruins, and she's asked that most of her ashes will be scattered there. The remainder she wants with her parents in Tredegar, and some here in the grounds of her church.

The final chapter of Mum's life was shaped by her battle with illness, after she was diagnosed with leukemia. She faced this with enormous courage and acceptance and no matter how unwell she felt, Mum was unwavering in her praise for the NHS — for all the doctors, nurses, specialists, and drivers who cared for her, especially the anonymous American stem-cell donor, and Sam at Barts. We were all immensely proud of how much of a fighter mum was, and she even took a certain joy in the reaction of doctors who were astonished by the sheer size of her medical records.

Mum was grateful for the extra years that her treatment had given her, allowing her to get to know her youngest grandchildren, Beatrix and Cordelia, whom she video-called almost every day. She managed to spend a last Christmas with her family, gifting each of her grandchildren a special keepsake made of Welsh gold for them to remember her by.

Mum was only 72 when she passed away, but achieved all the things a person might hope for in a good life. She had a family who loved her - her husband of 46 years,

three children, and six beloved grandchildren. She had close, devoted friends, hobbies, interests, and her faith. She gave back to society through her work and had travelled to the other side of the world. Mum said that there were three things that kept her going: her faith, her family and her friends. So it was very fitting that on her final day she was surrounded by Maggie to say prayers for her, her best friend, and her close family. Mum was very loved, and we're going to miss her hugely.

This poem was read by Carole's granddaughters, Amelia, Amelie and Zoe.

What is a Cwtch?

*A cwtch is a Welsh word steeped in history;
From where it came is still a mystery.
It's hard to describe the feeling you get
But your first real cwtch you'll never forget.
A cwtch is wondrous morning or night.
It's always the best way to get over a fight.
As a reliever of pain it's better than pills;
It'll help you forget all of your ills.
A cwtch is a drug, addictive for sure;
It's more than a hug; it's more than a cuddle;
It's something you give to someone who's special.
From parents and lovers, from a husband or wife;
The one thing for sure that I've learned is true
The spirit of cwtching lives on in you!*

John 14.1-6 – A tribute from Maggie

I love the fact that Carole's family chose this bible reading because it gives us all the opportunity to think of Carole in one of God's many dwelling places. Carole is one of those people who has been a constant in my life for so many years as she has been for so many of us and we can recall wonderful memories of her in so many places, contexts and situations.

Here at St Leonard's where she was part of the fabric - arranging flowers, catering, working with children, speaking with her beautiful Welsh accent and always smiling. If you visited Richard and Carole's shop in Eld Lane, Roundabout, you would always get a warm welcome, time for a chat and perhaps you might even buy something. In the classroom, with some very challenging young people, she would show her love, patience and understanding.

Carole was a very warm, loving person with an amazing Christian faith. She certainly knew that Jesus was the way, the truth and the life. So - how can we know the way? I believe that Carole chose a room in her Father's house rather than a hospital bed, I know that she was at peace with herself and with God and she also knew the many rooms of her Father's house, the room of life that she lived in to the full even in her darkest times, rooms of light in her Christian journey, rooms of healing - certainly at St Barts where she underwent the amazing process of a stem cell transplant, many rooms of love and beauty with Richard, her children and grandchildren - memories of her favourite places in Wales, rooms of generosity especially her kitchen which was her domain - with not just one pudding but two - one hot and one cold. I can remember when Carole moved to Marlowe Way she was so thrilled to be back in Lexden and invited us to share her hospitality to celebrate. And Carole will continue to find new rooms in her Father's house - rooms of hope, mercy and forgiveness.

Look at the family...

Carole did things her way in order to show her love for you, grounded in the everlasting love of God, grounded in the promises of Christ and grounded in the knowledge that her life was daily being renewed even as her body was dying.

So today and everyday, recall and share your memories of Carole, speak her name, tell the stories of how your lives intersected - include the joy, the laughter, the sorrows, losses, the successes and of course the failures. Recall how she touched your life and made a difference. Speak with your heart because that is the never ending story of Carole's life.

None of this will end the grief we have experienced to this point, but it may renew our hope that there is a way forward even when we don't know that way, see it or may be even believe it. Life is far too sacred as is the love of God and the love of Carole. This love is far too strong for death to have the final word - yes life has changed but not ended.

"Do not let your hearts be troubled - where I am there you may be also."

Wordsearch



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CHURCH SPRING CLEAN

Thank you so much to everyone who came and helped with the church Spring clean, from the hoovering of the rafters to the polishing of the brass, each and everyone who came contributed significantly to the life of the parish.





From the Archives

As many of you are aware I am fascinated by the medieval church that was pulled down so the present church could be built. When I first started my study I could find only one print of what the old church looked like. And I used that version in my first thank-you card to those who helped at the Christmas Market that I ran in 2023. Subsequently I found another rendition of the old church in the vestry and used that for the 2023 market. I thought that was it and in 2024 I used a view of our present church before the extension of the early 21st century.

Yet like all historians we are terriers and seek to find new information and while researching something for later in the year I came across a number of photos that had been squirrelled away by a former PCC secretary, Miss Betty Nicholls. These photos were of the inside of the present church taken in the 1920s and with a bit of careful computer magic I was able to see where the original medieval font stood, also its outline, which is very similar to the font in a number of churches dating back to the medieval period.

Yet the greatest find was photo of an etching dating back to the beginning of the 19th century which gives a whole new outlook on the old St Leonards. A Rendition is given below but if you look carefully and in your minds eye remove the extension at the front you will see it is very similar in design to St Albrights.

As we are celebrating VE day, I include something I found online from America and it concerns a member of the Papillon family who was a cousin of the Papillons of Lexden Manor. Her name was Elizabeth Anne Papillon. Elizabeth was born in 1920 at Battle just outside Hastings, educated at Queens college in London went onto study in Vienna and was present when the Nazi's invaded Austria. She witnessed Hitler give an intimidating speech and saw firsthand the oppressive tactics of the SS. She married an RAF pilot, Flt. Lt. Stephen Hanky and moved to Paris to be near him but was then forced to escape from Paris when the Nazi's took the French Capital. In this she was helped by a White Russian.

During the Blitz of London and other cities she drove for the Mechanized Transport Corp and later in 1943 she was the driver for Eleanor Roosevelt. Sadly in 1943 Elizabeth's Husband was killed when returning from delivering covert operatives into occupied France. In 1944 she was briefly married to Viscount Dangen but after a short while they separated and divorced. She joined KLM airways after the war and moved to the USA and settled in Boston. In 1953 she married again and this time to a man named Freeman Hill. A go-ahead lady, in 1954 she founded Esplanade Travel, leading archaeological tours to sites around the world, often accompanied by academics from many leading American educational establishments.

In 1981 she became Vice President of Hartour Travels and, using British contacts, organised tours to many remote places. For over thirty years she lived between Boston and the Bahamas. Finally she moved to Westport MA and died there. Her body was returned to the UK for internment at Crowhurst Place to rest with many of her Family.

The above was taken from her Orbituary published in Westport MA. Flt. Lt Hanky was buried next to Pelham Rawston Papillon. Hanky's father was one of Pelham's best friends during the second Boar war while they served in the 3rd Sussex regiment



FORTHCOMING EVENTS



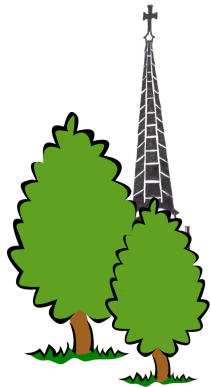
SUNDAY 11TH MAY 3:00PM

A service to celebrate 80 years of peace since the end of World War II in Europe.
Followed by a tea party.



SUNDAY 17TH MAY 9:00AM

Join us for a Parish Breakfast to raise money for Christian Aid.



SATURDAY 28TH JUNE 11:00am

St Leonard's Summer Fayre.
All the usual stalls, games, bar and lunches in church.
Plus entertainment from 1st Class Brass.



SUNDAY 6TH JULY 12:00pm

Bring your food and friends and enjoy a relaxing picnic at the Spring Lane Park.
Fun activities for children and adults alike.



The ROYAL
MARSDEN
Cancer Charity

SATURDAY 12TH JULY
10:30am

St Helena

Coffee morning in aid of Royal Marsden Cancer Charity and St Helena Hospice in the Church.
Please come along and support if you can.

WORLD'S BIGGEST
COFFEE
MORNING

MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT

SATURDAY 4TH OCTOBER 10:30am

We will be holding our Macmillan Coffee Morning on Saturday 4th October in Church.
Please come along to support a great cause and have a look at the beautiful Harvest decorations.



SATURDAY 13th SEPTEMBER 12:00PM
FRIENDSHIP LUNCH RETURNS
SATURDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER

CHRISTMAS MARKET

2025

SATURDAY 29TH NOVEMBER 11:00AM

Come and join us for our Annual Market
All the usual stalls plus some new stalls. including
Refreshments, Gifts, Christmas Fare
Kiddies Corner, Tombola and Father Christmas

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

MAY

Long, Emily Jane	4 th May 1892 – 16 th May 1968
Cook, Agnes Frances	18 th September 1906 – 15 th May 1988
Long, Maurice Donald	28 th October 1927 – 3 rd May 1992
Rowe, Valerie Doris	9 th June 1932 – 13 th May 2000
Niblett, Harry George	21 st July 1911 – 23 rd May 2003
York-Moore, Aline Rosemary	7 th July 1925 – 20 th May 2004
Walden, Gwendoline Irene May	13 th May 1917 – 7 th May 2006
O'Keefe, Frank Dennis	3 rd May 1931 – 21 st May 2007
Claxton, Cyril Arthur	4 th September 1913 – 18 th May 2008
Highfield, Peter Martin	5 th August 1961 – 27 th May 2009
Rhodes, Christopher John	4 th September 1944 – 31 st May 2011
Adamou, Gertrude	5 th January 1916 – 5 th May 2010
Ellis, Vera Jessie	5 th November 1928 – 17 th May 2001
Cook, Mary Elizabeth	13 th May 1929 – 11 th May 2020
Hall, Maureen	13 th August 1927 – 4 th May 2025



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

JUNE

Scrimgeour, Freda Evelyn	11 th August 1941 – 3 rd June 1992
Teggin, Margaret Ellen	8 th November 1924 – 13 th June 2000
Breens, Cyril Arthur	3 rd June 1915 – 13 th June 1986
Shepherd, Queenie	5 th December 1928 – 6 th June 2005
King, Betty Doris	12 th March 1924 – 29 th June 2006
Green, James Bisdee Malcolm	27 th January 1910 – 27 th June 2005
Marchington, Arthur Henry	27 th August 1922 – 1 st June 2007
Long, Ernest John Walker	30 th April 1924 – 22 nd June 2008
London, Betty Florence	8 th December 1914 – 18 th June 2009
Bareham, Peter Harold	29 th July 1923 – 18 th June 2011
Hull, Mary	July 1922 – 15 th June 2012
Yeats, Roy Walter	18 th March 1930 – 26 th June 2012
Cook, Ralph Harvey	24 th June 1923 – 19 th June 2017
Niblett, Miriam Emily Lucy	19 th March 1920 – 6 th June 2016
Lappage, Pamela Dorothy	21 st May 1938 – 22 nd June 2022



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.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

FUNERALS

11th February

Barry Oliff

7th March

Pauline Jarvis

14th March

Carole Durrant

7th April

Douglas Garland

Margaret Harris



'Rest in peace and rise in glory.'



BAPTISMS

27th April

Elis Beattie

'One Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all.'

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.