



THE PARISH CHURCH OF  
ST LEONARD, LEXDEN

**ORDINARY PEOPLE. EXTRAORDINARY GOD.**



**PARISH MAGAZINE**

**JULY-AUGUST 2025 £1.00**



## **Bradwell: a place to celebrate**

*Each July many hundreds of people make their way to a remote spot on our Essex coast, often on foot. They gather together at the Chapel of Saint Peter at Bradwell-on-Sea which sits on the tip of the Dengie Peninsula.*

*Why this place? Because in 654 AD a monk from Lindisfarne called Cedd first set sandal to mud here. He wanted to help introduce the people of Essex to Christianity, and among the first things he did was build the chapel - making it one of the most ancient buildings in the country.*

*It's not simply the chapel that makes Bradwell so special, but that the chapel has a chequered history: a chequered history that reflects some important things about the faith Cedd wanted to share. First of all, it has rather unexpected origins, because Cedd built not on any ancient holy place or temple. No, he built on a Roman fort - a military installation. Troubled origins are a recurring theme in the Bible, including some decidedly dodgy characters who are to be found in Jesus's own family tree! Secondly, the chapel's story has never run smoothly or predictably – from Viking raids, to its use as a barn, and its eventual near-ruin. This too is familiar from the story of Jesus's ministry – by the expected standards, things didn't run smoothly! What Cedd wanted to share with the people of Essex was his belief that in Jesus, God had walked the earth and lived a human life. Because Jesus experienced the messiness of our lives, he can be a guide and companion to each of us as we walk through life. So to Christians, travelling the paths to Bradwell reminds us that even when our lives are messy Jesus walks alongside us.*

*I encourage you, when and if you can, to follow that pilgrim path too.*

*Matt*

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# JOHN FOWLERS

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# FROM THE EDITOR

It is with great sadness that I write this editorial because this will be the last time Matt will give us his thoughts and perspective on events. As you are aware Matt and his family are moving to Clacton where he is to become the Priest in Charge at St James and St Christopher's Jaywick. Matt has been with us for seven years. We have witnessed his struggles with his health, something he bore with dignity and strength. We have seen Matt's family grow and become involved in all events to do with our Church. From Sian's involvement with Junior Church, Messy Church, running stalls for youngsters at fetes and markets and supporting the music at all age Eucharist. The same can be said about his children who we have seen grow into delightful young people. We wish them all well and good luck for the future.

Yet life must move on, Matt's last service with us will be on July 20th and he takes up his new post on September 1st. For us, it means a vacancy and the Wardens and PCC will start the process of finding a new Priest in Charge, working with the Archdeacon and Bishop Roger. We are in a unique position as we have three non-stipendiary clerics plus others we can call upon to continue our worship.

This magazine comments on the VE day service and tea, the coffee mornings held in the church by Kingswode Hoe School and the Summer Fayre, congratulations must go to Nick Allston for organising a successful event and to the loyal band of helpers who willingly give up their time and energy to ensure a great day. Our church is vibrant and ensures that we do as much as we can to include our ever-growing community.

Finally, a vote of thanks to David Watkins who after many years as Church Warden, has decided to step down. His insight and knowledge will be missed especially how to keep the church clock on time!

**Mike**



**St Leonard's Friendship Line**  
**Please call the parish number on**  
**01206 575 565**  
**to register your interest**

**We're here to give a**  
**listening ear**

# JULY-AUGUST DIARY

## Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July

11:30am Holy Communion at Cheviot

7:30pm 'Medley' house group (Rosemary 07954-138674)

## Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July

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 3<sup>rd</sup> July

8:00am Eucharist

## Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July

11:15am Kingswode Hoe Coffee and Cake

2:30pm Funeral of Colin Hazell

## Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July

8:30am Men's Breakfast

## **SUNDAY 6<sup>th</sup> July – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

**8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**9:45am ALL AGE EUCHARIST**

**12:00pm Parish Picnic**

## Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> July

9:30am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

10:00am Eucharist followed by coffee

11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

## Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July

8:00am Eucharist

## Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July

10:30am Royal Marsden/St Helena Hospice Coffee Morning

## **SUNDAY 13<sup>th</sup> July - 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

**9:45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church and Baptism of Amelia Ives**

**12:00pm Baptism of Reeva Millard**

**5:30pm Evensong and Sermon**

## Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July

7:00pm Eucharist

7:45pm PCC Meeting



Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July

9:30am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

10:00am Eucharist followed by coffee

11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July

8:00am Eucharist

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> July

8:30am Women's Breakfast in the Church

**SUNDAY 20<sup>th</sup> July – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

**8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**9:45am PARISH EUCHARIST**

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July

10:00am Eucharist followed by coffee

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> July

8:00am Eucharist

**SUNDAY 27<sup>th</sup> July – James the Apostle**

**9:45am PARISH EUCHARIST**

**5:30pm Eucharist for Wholeness & Healing**

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> July

10:00am Brick Club

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> July

10:00am Eucharist followed by coffee

Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> July

8:00am Eucharist

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> August

8:30am Men's Breakfast

**SUNDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> August - 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

**8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**9:45am ALL AGE EUCHARIST**

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> August

10:00am Brick Club

11:30am Holy Communion at Cheviot

7:30pm 'Medley' house group (Rosemary 07954-138674)

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> August

10:00am Eucharist followed by coffee

10:45am Holy Communion at Woodlands

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> August

8:00am Eucharist

**SUNDAY 10<sup>th</sup> August - 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

**9:45am PARISH EUCHARIST**

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> August

10:00am Brick Club

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> August

10:00am Eucharist followed by coffee

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> August

8:00am Eucharist

**SUNDAY 17<sup>th</sup> August - 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

**8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**9:45am PARISH EUCHARIST**

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> August

10:00am Brick Club

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> August

10:00am Eucharist followed by coffee

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> August

8:00am Eucharist

**SUNDAY 24<sup>th</sup> August – Bartholomew the Apostle**

**9:45am PARISH EUCHARIST**

**5:30pm Eucharist for Wholeness & Healing**

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> August

10:00am Brick Club

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> August

10:00am Eucharist followed by coffee

**SUNDAY 31<sup>st</sup> August – 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

**9:45am PARISH EUCHARIST**





# MOUSE TAILS



St. Leonard's Church mice were all very excited and up and doing by 4am when the sun came up. Today was Church Fayre Day, hurrah! It was a big day for the congregation, one of the highlights of the year. For the mice community as well it was an exciting time, all the Woods cousins had come up to the Church through the underground tunnel with 2 home- made sledges piled high with their nesting materials and offerings of foodstuff to contribute to the community feast. Before entering the tunnel (located near to the duck pond), the ducks were old friends to all the mice and called out greetings and (being very nosy) asked where they were

all off to.

The Woods told them they were going to St. Leonard's through the underground tunnel because tomorrow would be the Church Summer Fayre and, apart from meeting up with family members and old friends, they would be holding their own mouse Fayre after all the humans had gone home. The Mallards, who are particularly fond of humans (well, those who came to feed them!) Said that it sounded quite exciting and they would probably fly in to see everyone for the Mouse Fayre.

Thinking no more of it the mice started their trek to the Churchyard. There were so many of them that no predators dared to threaten them en-route. Arriving the night before the Fayre meant they could greet all their family and friends, have a good old natter, make their nests and stow away their belongings before sitting down to a hotchpotch meal and hear what



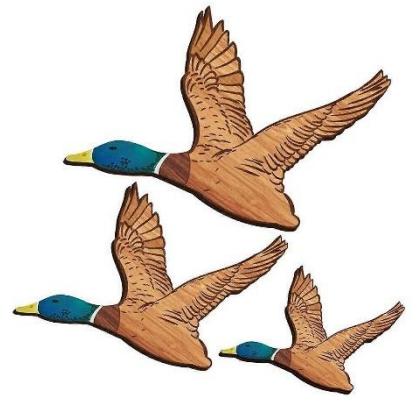
was in store for the next few days and what they were expected to do. This was, of course, accompanied by a few glasses of elderflower wine, just to help the creative juices flow, you understand, I'm sure.

The day of the Fayre dawned bright and warm, the marquees were erected, food was being prepared, and stalls were setting up in readiness for the day. The mice were keeping a covert eye on it all. They had noted where seating areas were, the cake, drink and food stalls were located and at every opportunity through the day they would zoom in, snatch up anything edible or useful and return it to a stash in the bushes to be collected later.

By 4pm all the stalls were dismantled and the humans departed. Now the mice came into their own, ferrying food and drinks they'd scavenged up to the Hall for the Mums to create a sumptuous feast later. Meanwhile, the Mouse Fayre got under way. Taking ideas from the human version, they had games organised for the youngsters, splat the rat, (they were not overly fond of the creatures) throwing a bottle top into a plastic cup, a mini treasure hunt and loads more for all ages to enjoy. They always collected discarded plastic glasses that had rolled out of sight plus they'd scavenged bits of crayon, ribbons, coloured paper as well as bits of burger, sausage, bread and cake. It was a wonderful haul, and the Mums were delighted to see it and start planning their feast for later. The Dads had scavenged quite a few plastic glasses containing dregs of beer and had poured them all together to make an interesting brew to be sampled later on.



Halfway through the Fayre, 4 Mallards flew in making an impressive landing in the Churchyard. They chatted to the Woods family and a few other mice. One of the older ducks spotted Grandad, waddled up to him and looking him in the eye said 'I think I remember you, when you were a youngster didn't you get marooned on the island of the duck pond? "I did" said Grandad, "and you



rescued me by pushing a big lily leaf towards me, so I hopped on, and you towed me back to shore!" They were pleased to be reacquainted and very grateful for a few bites of lovely cake and a drink of fresh water. The youngsters looked on in awe at the thought of Grandad having been a mischievous little mouse like they were. They advised the mice to come to the pond in autumn when the large leaves were falling and they would tow the little mice around the pond.

During the Fayre, Tommy mouse-organ and his little band had played favourite tunes and everyone enjoyed their music, especially the ducks who didn't get to hear much music. As everything was winding down the ducks bid farewell and flew off back to the pond.

The mice gathered up everything and made sure that their presence would never be detected and scampered up to the Hall where the Mums had organised a sumptuous feast from everyone's contributions, it was a feast to remember, Grandad said Grace and thanked the Mums for all their efforts.

When all the mice were full to the brim and tired after their exciting day, little ones were nodding sleepily the mice decided it was time for bed and soon all that could be heard were contented snuffles and yawns as they went sleep and dream of their lovely day.

**CT**





# Friendship Lunches

**St Leonard's Church  
Lexden** welcomes you to its  
**Friendship Lunches**

Join us for delicious  
homemade soup and cake.

Every month on the 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Saturday from **September to  
March** at 12pm

Please book by emailing  
[admin@stleonardslexden.org.uk](mailto:admin@stleonardslexden.org.uk)  
or phoning the Parish Office on **01206  
575565** or use the sign up sheet in  
Church.

**Donations welcome on the day.**

## Friendship Lunch returns on 13<sup>th</sup> September

Our Friendship Lunches are open to everyone, whether you are a church member or not. It is a wonderful opportunity to make new friends and to have time to chat to old ones. We run every second Saturday in the month up until March, starting at 12 noon. Just ring Esther in the parish office on 01206 575565 or email [admin@stleonardslexden.org.uk](mailto:admin@stleonardslexden.org.uk) if you would like to come – There is also a signup sheet in church.

It would be lovely to see you so please give us a try. There is no charge, but donations are welcome on the day.

**The Friendship Lunches Team**

# 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 Debt Centre (new name for CAP)



## Christian Aid Update.

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.

Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to our activities for Christian Aid week.

The grand total raised was a fantastic £943.54 including gift aid which will make a real difference to people's lives. Your gift will 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.

Thank you.





## **When We Think We Know Best!**

As part of my work with the hospice I have, over the past two and half years, been visiting a person who has been extremely unwell. He had been expecting to die for most of that time as he had been told that it would be only months from diagnosis. But he was a fighter and managed to survive every set back.

He was hoping to go on a trial at Addenbrooke's hoping that it would prolong his life (He was certain it was too late for a cure) but also because it would, he hoped, help others. The problem with these trials is that you have to be well enough to go on them but not too well!

Anyway, one Friday morning they heard the news from Addenbrooke's that he had been accepted onto the trial. Texts of delight flew around and we all rejoiced. Unfortunately, by that evening he had been rushed back to hospital and, of course, joining the trial would be out of the question.

I was so angry with God. And had been upset all over the weekend – being very impolite to God. I sat in morning prayer with my colleagues on the Tuesday morning and gave vent to my feelings, ending in tears. How could God have given them this moment of happiness to only then snatch it away in a moment.

When I next visited him, a couple of days after my morning prayer meeting, I told him how upset I'd been with God and how sorry I was at how things had turned out. Obviously, he was also fed up with the outcome but he said that he wouldn't have changed anything. He said that those few hours of wonder and joy at being accepted onto the trial had been so precious.

How wrong was I. God obviously knew the outcome but also knew how precious that window of happiness would be.

We don't always understand the ways of God – in fact very rarely it seems. But we must have faith He knows what is best for us even when we don't particularly like the road that we have to take.

**Revd. Jacquie**



## **A TRIBUTE TO MAUREEN WATKINS**

David has kindly given us permission to reproduce the tributes given at Maureen's funeral.

### **David's tribute**

How to sum up someone like Maureen? Not sure but I will try.

I first met Maureen when I was a choir boy at St Elizabeth's Church in Dagenham. There were 3 of us in the front row, Ronnie Keen, Alan Chapman and myself. Maureen sat behind us and was always telling us off for messing around and talking. Little did I know that 50 years later she'd still be doing it!

We married in 1976 at St Elizabeth's Church. Colin Charlton, the vicar, said he would drive Maureen to the Church – he arrived in a funeral limousine borrowed from West & Co. The problem was it had to come from Barking some 5 miles away and it was carnival day, so Colin had a police escort through the carnival to get to Maureen on time. Now some of you will remember 1976 was the hottest August on record, but on 11<sup>th</sup> September 1976 the heavens opened, fortunately after the photos, and we had some in the hall for the reception.

We had already found and were buying our house in Colchester. At this time Maureen was working in a bank near Mansion House in London and I was working as a gasman in Ilford. We would come home, and Maureen would change out of her city clothes into



something more comfortable. One day, there was a knock at the front door, I opened it to see the local vicar, Alan Davies. I said "Come in VICAR" in a very loud voice and that was the start of a long association with St John's. Maureen belonged to the Young Wives at St John's; she was made the social secretary until she organized a cultured visit around a village in Suffolk which was really a pub crawl. She lost that job.

Then in 2012 we started coming to St Leonard's. After a while my job in Ilford was changing and I said to Maureen that I wanted to leave the gas board and become a social worker. Maureen said in her usual way "I will support you in whatever you do." So, I went to the job centre in town, sorry city, to enquire as to how to become a social worker. I was told I'd have to go the Wales to train, so I thought that was out of the question. "But" said the assistant, "there is a job as an ambulanceman". And that, as they say, was that.

Maureen supported me throughout my career, putting up with shiftwork, my finishing late and all the upheaval that shiftwork entails. She basically brought up our 2 children and, as I'm sure you'll agree, did a great job of it.

Maureen's health and fitness suffered throughout our marriage. Visits to various hospitals followed, never local though, Stanmore, Middlesex, London and other places. I retired early to look after Maureen in 2011, more operations and hospital visits followed. She rarely complained and we always said, "we'll get through this". Her faith was strong and never faltered. Even just before she died, she wanted to get to St Leonard's, "to be with my Church family" she would say.

There are lots of things I could say about Maureen, too many to write down and you all have your memories of her. Maureen was truly "what you see is what you get".

Maureen died peacefully at home. I am truly humbled by the number of cards Simon, Clare and I have received. She was my best friend, wife, mother and grandmother.

## Simon's tribute

Reading through the cards that everyone sent, and there are quite a few, it struck me that there were some common themes; obviously sympathy and compassion for the loss of Mum, but lots of people also mentioned her strong spirit and determination.

As some of you know, Mum was a keen and accomplished table tennis player when she was younger, and while I don't remember too much about our house in Chalfont road, I do remember a cabinet in the hallway full of trophies, and on holidays to various camps in the UK, I have memories of Mum playing in, and winning tournaments.

That same determination also came through in various games we played, and she would often shark us, by claiming she was no good, before beating us, although she always claimed it was just luck. This carried when she played with her grandkids, who soon learned that despite what she said, when Nanna played, she played to win.

That same determination was true when it came to overcoming adversity; with her fair share of visits to hospitals, which unfortunately became more frequent in later years, to the point where I had to remind her, that you don't get club card points for being in Colchester general. It could have been all too easy for Mum to just spend her days sitting in front of the tele but that was never going to happen; Mum would take every opportunity to get out; be it a trip to the seaside for a "walk" along the front and ice cream, or to a garden centre for lunch, she wasn't one to wallow in self-pity. Even when she had her leg removed, that didn't slow her down, in fact of anything it sped her up, as she now had either her electric buggy to get around in, or Dad to push her.

However, while not wallowing in self-pity, there may have been the odd occasion, when she would use her disability or wheelchair to her advantage, memorable examples include not queuing up, cos and I quote "I'm just a little old lady in a wheelchair", or explaining that the people that were with her (and it didn't matter how many there

where), where her carers and so shouldn't be charged full price. However, I think we all knew, that she knew exactly what she was doing.

Family and friends were other words that were included in most of the cards; Mum came from a big family (3 brothers & 3 sisters, all of whom have kids), plus Dad's family was only one less, and despite having moved away when I was 19, I was always kept informed via weekly phone and later Skype calls (once Dad had mastered it) of what was happening where and with who, even if I sometimes/ quite often didn't know who she was talking about. Despite not living at or near home, Mum was always wanting to come and visit wherever I was in the world. And once my wife and I had children, there was even more reason to come and see us. When they came up, Mum would enjoy taking my son out for the day, normally to the beach come rain or shine. Although those of you that know North Wales, will know that normally means rain. And no trip out was complete without a trip to the toy shop to buy him something, normally something he didn't need. But to quote Mum "she didn't see him that often, so that was her reason for spoiling him" And also I guess its grandparent's prerogative. In fact the weekend before she passed away, I came down to see her, and while sat on the end of the bed listening to her complain about the price of tea bags, and making sure I had, had something to eat and had a safe drive down, she made sure my Dad went to the bank to get some money for Harry and Ella, so they could get something they wanted.

Like most children I have inherited a few things from my Mum which I'm grateful for, my enjoyment of cycling, although she would regularly apologise to my wife after she'd asked me where I'd been, or how far I'd ridden. Also, the support of the same football team, although based on the last 40 years of results, I'm not sure grateful is the right word. Still could be worse, she could have been a Spurs fan.

I know today is a sad day but knowing Mum and that strong spirit and determination she wouldn't have wanted you to be too sad. And no doubt she would have told you that, or given you a kick up the

backside, to be honest there are probably still a couple of false legs in a cupboard at home, so that still might happen.

Finally, I'm sure we've all got lots of fond memories of Mum, but there for another time, I'm sure we get used to her not being around, but not too soon.

### Clare's tribute

I don't remember much about the day I met Mum, but it was a special day on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September. One of the 1<sup>st</sup> things I do remember is one day on our walk to school someone commented on her new shoes, only for her to look down and see she was in her slippers! She pulled it off though and said they were very comfortable.

During the school holidays we would go on days out which included swimming and a number of bike rides. There were trips to London for different reasons, but we always had to have a visit to Hamleys toyshop. At Christmas time we would head to Lakeside and attempt to get all the shopping done in one day. Then once Luke was here she would always have to buy him something extra which was normally a West Ham top.

I remember her having a number of different jobs. One of them was working on a fruit farm and her getting me my 1<sup>st</sup> job working with her in the school holidays. Mum was always there for school assemblies or any school event. I remember coming home for a week away with the school and her scrubbing my face clean with her hanky, only to eventually realise it was actually my freckles.

Mum was well known for her cake making skills, I would often go round and find a cake for me to take to work then when Luke found he loved her fruitcake there was one each week for him to take to school, which he exchanged for Pokémon cards with his friends. But for some reason, Mum could never make a sponge cake.

Mum would always enjoy a day out at the beach and no matter what the weather you would always have to have an ice cream and, in her

case, drop some down her top and tell me she was saving that bit for later.

I could go on about all the different things we would get up to and her cheeky side, but I think we all saw that at some point. One thing I do know is that I will miss her and I will do my best to continue doing all the things she loved to do and making her proud.

### **Maggie's tribute**

With someone like Maureen it's difficult to know where to start as there is so much to say about her and so much that will be left unsaid, so let's try starting at the beginning:

Maureen was born in Ware, Hertfordshire - Ware I hear you say? and yes Maureen always turned it into a joke - think about it. The family eventually moved to Clapham and lived there during WW2 and eventually to Dagenham in 1950.

Many stories about Maureen are lost in the mists of time but, needless to say, she was a force to be reckoned with and she fought many of the family's battles - there is talk of when she allowed Peter to go down the hill in a pram and he ended up in the pond! Then there was the time when she hung upside down, in a tree wearing her wellington boots; it resulted in the inevitable crash landing!

Maureen left school at the age of 15 and worked in several different jobs including: making up paint colour charts, getting the left & right legs mixed up when assembling boiler suits - she got the sack!! She was one of the famous Nippies at Lyons Corner House - the letters JT appeared on her badge which stood for Junior Trainee, but she told her customers it meant Jam Tart! Maureen cleaned carriages on the railways and ended up as a filing clerk for Read Brothers, a Merchant Bank in the city - on one occasion she was asked to deliver a passport to an embassy and was caught up in one of the London bombings during the troubles - she just carried on as if nothing had happened.

Maureen was an accomplished table tennis player and became an Essex champion - she once beat England's number one player Chester Barnes.

Maureen was in her church choir, and she used to sit behind a young 11 year old lad and keep him in order - this was David and the rest as they say is history!

Maureen was a huge presence in this church - she would welcome everyone and make sure she spoke to all newcomers. She wore her faith for all to see and would share it with everyone in such an honest and open way. Maureen didn't 'do deference' and treated everyone in exactly the same way, and everyone who knew her, loved her, and respected her for her honesty and openness.

Maureen would be the first to admit that she had a poor education, mostly due to ill-health when she was younger and other reasons, but she knew how to engage with the Bible, how to bring out the simple truths of the gospel and how to encourage others to do the same. I can remember that during lockdown we started a bible study group over zoom - taking it in turns to lead sessions - it's hard to describe her impact, but Maureen shared some amazing experiences with us, which really touched our lives.

I hardly knew Maureen when I started my discernment for the ministry; after a pilgrimage to Canterbury Cathedral; she told me soon afterwards that she'd told Teresa (our priest at the time) that God was calling me to the priesthood - from then on we became firm friends, she always supported and encouraged me and I hope I did the same for her. I remember one trip we took to Liverpool, and, despite the pain she was experiencing in her leg, she loved visiting the Cathedrals at each end of Hope Street - Maureen was game for anything and refused to let her physical problems get in the way until recently when they became too much for her.

Another abiding memory of Maureen was at a retreat at Pleshey - the house was silent after Compline until after Morning Prayer - she found it hard to cope with silence at breakfast, so she decided it

would be fun to wear a tea cosy on her head to see what reaction she would get - a mischievous lady. And I'm sure you will have many more memories like this to share after the service.

Maureen's love of life, love for her family and love for her fellow human beings shone through; she was such a brave lady, for so many reasons, I could talk to her, confide in her and have fun with her. I will miss that, and I will miss her - I will miss seeing her face at the back of the church, miss her company and miss her unconditional love.

Towards the end of her life Maureen lost some of her 'joie de vivre,' she could be grumpy and demanding - but that was understandable. She left this world as she would have wanted, at home, being cared for by the man she loved so very much, knowing she was loved by so many and knowing she was going to meet the Saviour she had followed and loved so faithfully.

May you rest in peace dear friend - free from pain.

Amen







# SUMMER

Our summer Fayre this year was held on the 28th of June under a bright sunny sky. The temperature was oppressive, but it didn't prevent people from having a great time. Our event was opened by the Mayor of Colchester Cllr Michael Lilley who was accompanied by the Mayoress, Honorary Alderman Lyn Barton.



Our refreshment area was full, and everyone agreed that the food offered was excellent. We were pleased that the footfall was up, and it was great to see many new faces.



# FAYRE

One of the highlights was to see our Priest in Charge Matt being in goal as many people old and young took penalties against him. It was a tiring day as many volunteers had arrived early to set up and then clear up. A great day and thank-you to all who came and helped organise and make it such a success.



The event was organised by Nick Alston and our thanks must go to him and all those involved in making it a very successful event. As yet we do not have a final figure on what was made towards church funds but as a community event that far out ways monetary gain.

## SLYC Happenings! (St Leonard's Youth Club)

It was great to welcome our new members at the last get together. The usual activities were on offer with badminton as a favourite. We're getting quite good at this sport now and increasingly competitive! We all love Kirstie's collection of table games with something to interest everyone. Table top football matches took place and somehow a spontaneous hula hoop event happened!



We also played some team games and considered how it felt when the rules were suddenly changed and one team had a clear advantage over the other. How could we respond to that? That led us to identify people in our communities who might encounter similar situations in their daily lives. Lots to think about there!

Taking turns when we queued to buy sweets from the tuck shop was no problem and was a great way to end the session.



SLYC takes place from 3-5pm on designated Sundays in the church hall and is suitable for children in Year 4 and above. Dates for the autumn term will be published soon.

**The SLYC Team**





Junior Church are extending a welcome to the children and young people in the parish by literally flagging up all the activities on offer at St Leonard's by planting flags in the Junior Church garden.

After the morning service Matt blessed the garden and gave thanks for the children and young people in our community. We do hope that people passing by will stop to read the flags and also the painted stones showing God's gifts to us.

Please feel free to water the garden as it gets very dry. We're hoping that the ducks, the birds and the deer don't nibble it too much!





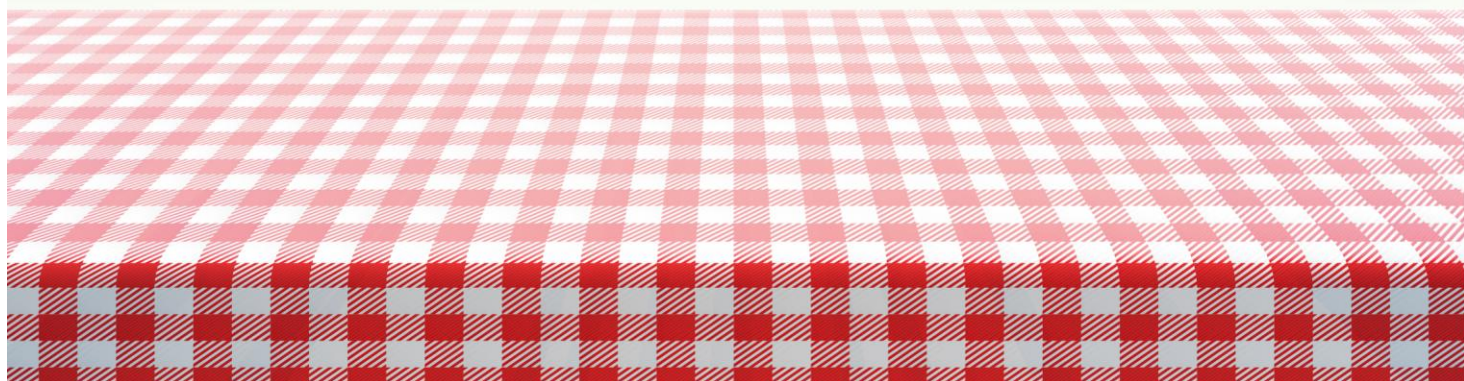


Sunday 6th July

*Parish*  
**PICNIC**


12:00 Noon - 2:30pm

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



## Families and Children at St Leonard's

### What's on in July and August?

<p>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 16<sup>th</sup> July. Just turn up!</p>	
<p>6<sup>th</sup> July</p> <p>Plus-PARISH PICNIC - bring a picnic and your friends, and enjoy fun and games at Lexden Spring Lane Park (the one behind The Crown). Head uphill on the left to find us from 12 noon.</p>	<p>All Age Service</p>
<p>13<sup>th</sup> July</p> <p>Junior Church</p> 	<p>Encouraging Words</p> <p>Building a community of love and mutual encouragement where everyone's needs are met</p>
<p>20<sup>th</sup> July</p> <p>We all join Matt in church for his last service.</p>	
<p>Summer holiday Brick Clubs on Tuesdays in the hall</p> <p>10am -12 noon from 29<sup>th</sup> July</p>	<p>Just turn up and build!</p>
<p>Junior Church is back on 14<sup>th</sup> September</p>	
<p>Messy Church returns on 21<sup>st</sup> September</p>	
<p>SLYC will be back in the Autumn too!</p> <p>(St Leonard's Youth Club)</p>	





# THE NEWSPAPER OF KINDNESS



Friendship and kindness is Good!!



Friends are being kind and helping each other.

Before After



When a friend helps you before and after

## CAT-GATE!



Concerned neighbours knocked on doors on Saturday to ensure a wandering cat was OK.

"We thought he was going to follow us home" said the pair who were over a mile from home.

Owners of the cat, Ginger, were grateful to the couple who praised the cat for being very cute and friendly.

## Girl helps upset friend



Yesterday in Philip Morant School and College a girl called Bridget (a year 7) found Lila (also year 7) was upset because of bullying. Bridget was able to talk her through her problems and figure out her sadness!

For the rest of the day/week Bridget and Lila played together forever! Even to this day they are best friends and always have each others backs!

Summary  
Always BE KIND To others!



## Cake Kindness

Every so often a very kind person leaves tiny cake + flowers + a note on a teacher's desk to brighten her day.





# JUST TURN UP AND BUILD

## ST LEONARD'S **BRICK CLUB**

- Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> July and 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> August
- 10am-12noon
- St Leonard's Church, Lexden
- Free of Charge. All Welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult

## 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](https://www.facebook.com/stleonardsbabyandtoddlergroup)



The Church of England  
in Essex and East London  
Diocese of Chelmsford

## **Bishop Guli's prayer for the people of Iran and the wider Middle East**

Bishop Guli has written a prayer for the people of Iran and the whole region, including Israel, Gaza and the West Bank - the innocent who will continue to suffer as the current conflict continues.

Ever loving God,  
who hears us in our anguish and distress,  
and longs for us to be free.  
We pray for the people of Iran  
and the wider Middle East,  
at this time of fear and uncertainty.  
Be near to those who are anxious;  
bring comfort to all who are suffering.  
Guide those with the power to make decisions,  
and lead them in the ways of wisdom,  
compassion and moderation:  
that people of good will would seek  
harmony and reconciliation.  
Join us with our Christian brothers  
and sisters in all places,  
in praying for peace with justice,  
through him who is the prince of peace,  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

In a statement shared with the Church Times last week, Bishop Guli said of the conflict between Israel and Iran:

"First and foremost, my thoughts and prayers are with civilians in both countries. As is so often the case it is the innocent who are suffering most as a consequence of this latest conflict.

"For the small number of Anglicans in Iran, that I am in touch with, their focus is on trying to evacuate their families and ensure they can find shelter during the attacks.

"While the Iranian regime has clearly lost moral authority amongst the vast majority of Iranian people, these latest developments bring a new sense of fear, of more violence and bloodshed and of an uncertain future, not least because of the prospect of change imposed from the outside without the agency of the Iranian people."

**+Guli Francis-Dehqani**

Bishop Guli also recorded the prayer which can be viewed on the Church of England's [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) accounts.

# SAFEGUARDING AT ST LEONARD'S

Having recently attended a Safeguarding Leadership Course, I felt it was crucial to highlight the importance of this integral part of our ministry in the Church of England. To quote the National Safeguarding Team: "It is essential that we understand safeguarding as a theological imperative, noted in the nature and love of God, and outworking in basic commitments to giving equal worth to all."

Safeguarding is about being pro-active in the way we look after one another and, it is not something that we should think is being handled by some one else. It is incumbent on all of us to understand the importance of this aspect of church life.

Of course we have to have some formal structures. **Our Safeguarding Officer is Julie Hinchcliffe** and her **Deputy is Mandy Allston**; they are the people to approach if you have any concerns. If they are not available please speak to one of the **clergy team** or **church wardens**.

If you would like to find out more about the importance of safeguarding you can attend one of the training sessions either on 3rd or 10th September at the Church - just contact **Julie** or **Mandy** for further details - they would love to include you - there's no tests to pass!

Take care & God bless,

**Revd Maggie**



[www.colchesterdeanery.org.uk/deaneryday](http://www.colchesterdeanery.org.uk/deaneryday)

# Deanery Day

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2025**  
**9:30am – 3:30pm**

**St. John's Church & Community Centre, CO4 0HP**



**Sign up in Church now!**

**A Day of networking and nurture, for  
enthusiasing equipping emboldening experiencing  
enjoying engaging empathising encouraging  
all members of all our congregations**

**Lots of seminars • Visiting speakers • Worship • Young people's activities • Food**



Bishop Roger   Patrick Regan OBE   Archdeacon Ruth   Ben Vorberg-Clark   Nathan Medhurst   Matt Williamson   Tom Geldard   Sam Fowler   Philip Ritchie   Philip Howlett

# **Crossword**

## **(solution next time)**



**SAVE THE DATE!**

**StHelena**



*The ROYAL  
MARSDEN  
Cancer Charity*

We will be holding a Coffee Morning in aid of the St Helen Hospice and Royal Marsden Cancer Charities on Saturday 12th July from 10:30am. These charities do fantastic work supporting patients and their families through some really difficult times and I know many of you will have 1st hand experience of the wonderful work they do.

Please come along and support if you can.

**WORLD'S BIGGEST  
COFFEE  
MORNING**

**MACMILLAN  
CANCER SUPPORT**

**MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING**

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

**St Leonards Church Lexden**  
**CHRISTMAS MARKET**  
**2025**

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November**  
**In the Church Hall**  
**11:00am to 2:00pm**



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## From the Archives

The Manor of Lexden was at one time linked to the Manor of Stanway and both Manors were controlled by John de Burgh who lived between 1209 to 1275. John de Burgh sold the Stanway Manor to a Thomas Belhus and from that moment on Lexden became a separate entity.

Lexden would go on to have many Lords of the Manor over the centuries, many were absentee Lords and the manor was controlled by a steward or Reeve. Yet one family owned the Manor from 1247 up to 1629 although some of the family links are very strained and to go into detail would take as many pages that appear in our magazine. Just to say that one member of the Fitzwalter family was beheaded by order of the king after a failed prison escape during the reign of Henry VII.

During this period Lexden had many Rectors one of whom was Robert Searle. He worked for three Fitzwalter Lords between 1576 and 1610. His story is one of faith and loss. The records show that he was Rector during the reigns of Elizabeth I and James VI of Scotland and 1st of England. It is not my intention to go into great detail about what was going on in church politics at the time but rather to write about the man himself. Robert Searle appears to be a very humane man. For the records talk not just about his family, but also about the suffering of his parishioners. Deaths from a disease called the falling sickness, family members falling sick with unknown diseases, the tragedy of still births and families losing the only bread winner. In fact, the records tell of a woman: -

*‘strangely sick and speechless, her eyes rolling and her tongue doubled in size’*

It is of interest that there are a number of instances of people with similar ailments being buried. The year was 1604 and Colchester was hit with a mild outbreak of plague.

Robert Searle was married three times during his lifetime which was not unusual during this period as a great many women died during childbirth. He married his second wife in 1586 and she died in 1597 at the age of 63. The record of the time says 'lord have mercy on the poor husband'. He marries again in 1598 to an Annabel Argent who will outlive him.

Despite burying his wives, he also baptised five of his own children and at least two of his grandchildren, yet perhaps the moving record is in 1583 when he officiated at his own son Johnathan's funeral. The record quotes :-

*The 22nd March was buried Jonathan Searle my son to the great grief of my heart. the lord merciful unto me his poor servant and forgive me all my sins in the death of Christ. These were the beginnings of my sorrow.*

As Thomas Hobbs states in his book Leviathan :- life for man, solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short.

### 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](mailto:davidw@stleonardslexden.org.uk)



# VE Day Service



On Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May St Leonards celebrated the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War II. The afternoon took the form of the service preached in Westminster Abbey in 1945. This included the Hymns used and part of the Sermon preached that day. Those who attended found the service moving and poignant the afternoon concluded with an afternoon tea based loosely on the street parties that took place in 1945. The back of the church had been decorated with bunting and as a special raffle prize a tin of SPAM was awarded.

Thanks to the generosity of those attending a good amount of money was raised for church funds. Our thanks go to Linda and Ellen for their sandwich making skills and Esther and Julie for their help during tea.



# FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

## BAPTISMS



8<sup>th</sup> June  
**Thea McSweeney**  
**Ayda Lancaster**  
**Myla Lancaster**

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

## FUNERALS

8<sup>th</sup> May  
**Nick Leaning**  
9<sup>th</sup> May  
**Maureen Watkins**  
4<sup>th</sup> June  
**Leslie King**  
16<sup>th</sup> June  
**Win Kenway**



*'Rest in peace, and rise in glory.'*

## MAGAZINE DEADLINE

Final day for items for the SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER edition:

SUNDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST

Please submit items to the Editor  
email: [magazine@stleonardslexden.org.uk](mailto:magazine@stleonardslexden.org.uk)

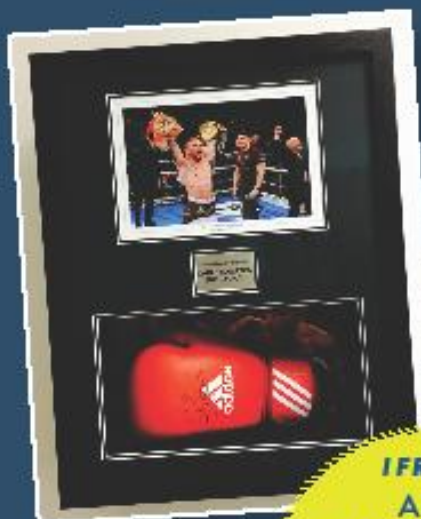
Please include your name with any submission  
and limit text to 500-600 words maximum.  
Longer articles may be edited. Thank you.



•Cards•  
•Framing•  
•Gallery•

# SEBASTIAN WARNER *Framing*

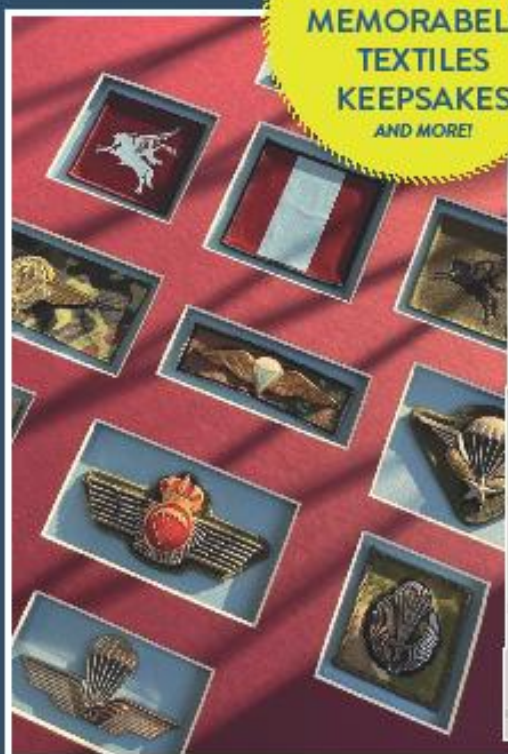
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## **APCM - SUNDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2025**

The APCM took place on Sunday 18th May and was attended by 42 members of the congregation. The meeting was chaired by the Revd. Matthew Simpkins (Priest in Charge). The following is a summary of the outcome of the meeting.

1. Election of Churchwardens. Nick Alston and Michael Firth were unanimously elected as our churchwardens for the forth coming year.
2. The annual report on the proceedings of the PCC and the annual activities of the Parish in general, the financial statement had been made previously to the congregation. There were no matters arising from either report so both were approved.
3. The Financial Statement. Adrian Steward reported on the annual financial statement and was available to take questions. He reported that income was up on the previous year; successful fund-raising events had been held. The tax recovered from gift aided donations continues to be significant. For this, thanks must go to our stewardship recorder Andrew Leonard Jones. At this time, it was announced that Andrew would be stepping down as he was moving away. However as in the previous few years our income did not match our expenditure and therefore the accounts for 2024 show a negative balance. Thanks were given to Adrian and the Treasury Team.
4. Election of Representatives of the Laity to the Deanery Synod – Miss Deirdre Fordham was elected as a new member with the following were confirmed as sitting members, Julie Hinchcliffe and Linda Firth.

5. Election of Representatives of the Laity to the Parochial Church Council. One nomination was received for Mrs Judith Steele who was duly elected.
6. The appointment of Independent Examiners – Peyton Tyler Mears were proposed and unanimously appointed.
7. Appointment of Child Protection Officer and Adult Safeguarding Officer – Julie Hinchliffe continues as our Parish Safeguarding Officer and Mandy Allston Deputy Safeguarding Officer. They were both thanked for all their work during the year.
8. Churchwardens Assistants – Mr Peter Hinchcliffe and Mrs Esther Heptonstall who would continue to support the work of the Churchwardens. The Revd Matthew Simpkins thanked them for all the support they to the Wardens.
9. A vote of thanks was proposed and seconded to thank the Clergy and Churchwardens for all their work during the year. With special thanks to Mr David Watkins who was standing down after being Churchwarden for a number of years.
10. Nick Allston then thanked Matt and everyone who gives service at St Leonards in anyway over the last year.



On Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July our two church wardens, Michael and Nick were admitted into office. Here they are with their better halves! Please cherish them and support them in all they do.

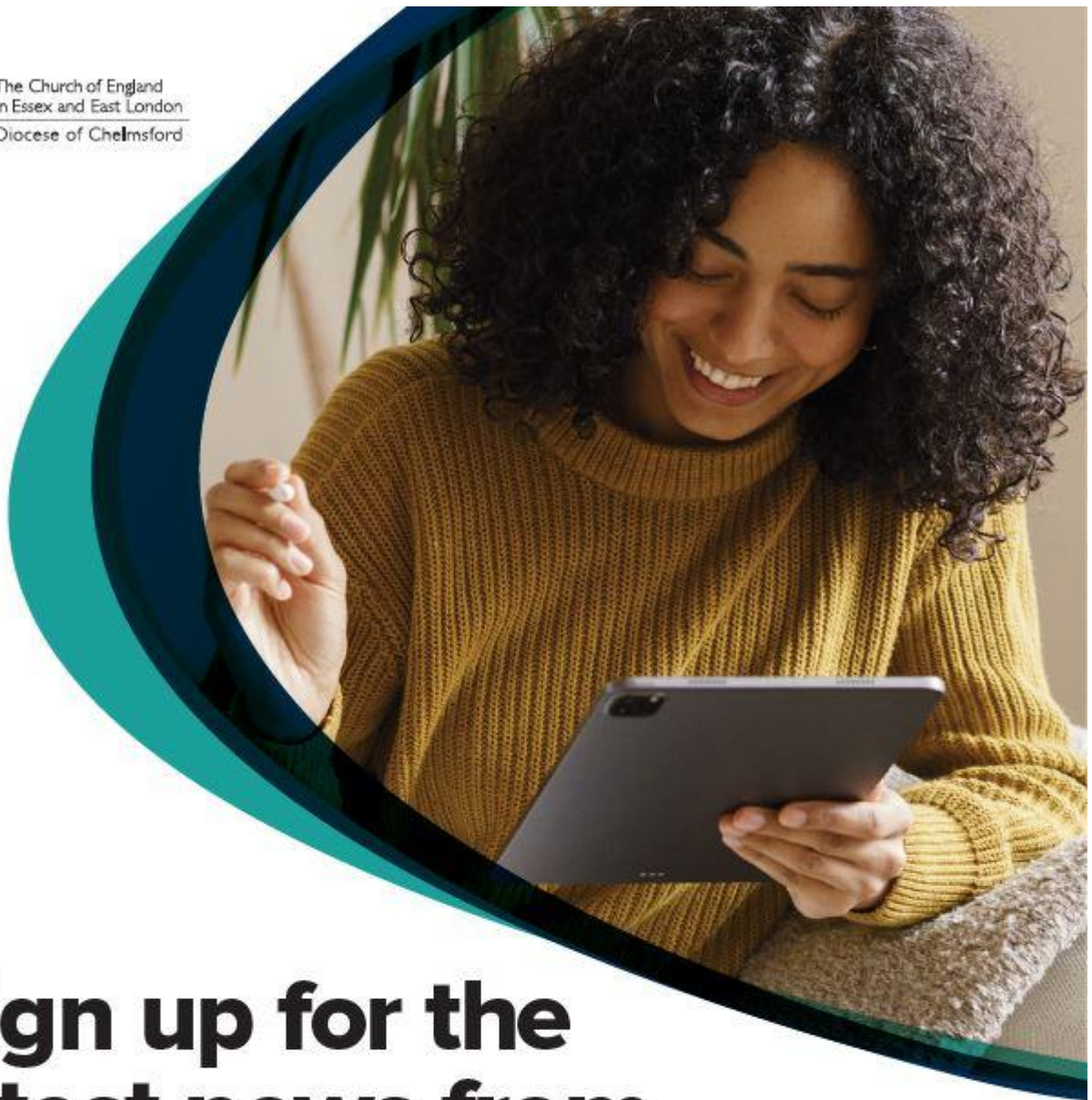


May God give them grace to serve him  
with cheerfulness and humility;  
May our Lord Jesus Christ be with them  
And all they do in his service;  
May the Holy Spirit guide and direct their path.  
Throughout the coming year,  
That they may fulfil their office to the glory of God  
And for the good of his people.





The Church of England  
in Essex and East London  
Diocese of Chelmsford



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# BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE JULY

Nickolls, Edith Emily	7 <sup>th</sup> August 1915 – 8 <sup>th</sup> July 1979
Coomber, Gordon Raleigh	25 <sup>th</sup> March 1928 – 19 <sup>th</sup> July 1997
Williams, Julia Vera	2 <sup>nd</sup> November 1903 – 1 <sup>st</sup> July 1999
Game, Jeanne	10 <sup>th</sup> July 1924 – 25 <sup>th</sup> July 2003
Rhodes, Barbara Eileen	9 <sup>th</sup> December 1911 – 17 <sup>th</sup> July 1998
Whitehouse, Peter Jason	16 <sup>th</sup> May 1944 – 11 <sup>th</sup> July 1988
Blake, Rosemary Forrestt	28 <sup>th</sup> February 1928 – 14 <sup>th</sup> July 2004
Davis, Leslie	23 <sup>rd</sup> October 1916 – 27 <sup>th</sup> July 1996
Cant, Edgar John William	22 <sup>nd</sup> January 1934 – 11 <sup>th</sup> July 2006
Harrison, Ruby Elsie	21 <sup>st</sup> January 1922 – 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2006
Morgan, Ivor Harold	20 <sup>th</sup> March 1930 – 9 <sup>th</sup> July 2008
Godden, David Roger James	10 <sup>th</sup> July 1930 – 30 <sup>th</sup> July 2011
Elden, Colin Richard	25 <sup>th</sup> June 1946 – 28 <sup>th</sup> July 1998
Raymer, Patricia Daphne	5 <sup>th</sup> February 1933 – 29 <sup>th</sup> July 2011
Goodyear, Leslie Archibald	25 <sup>th</sup> February 1921 – 27 <sup>th</sup> July 2010
Kirsten, Berill Maud	3 <sup>rd</sup> March 1942 – 15 <sup>th</sup> July 2012
Cole, Barbara Joan	27 <sup>th</sup> May 1942 – 25 <sup>th</sup> July 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.*

# BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

## AUGUST

Spurrier, Rose Hilda	1 <sup>st</sup> October 1906 – 5 <sup>th</sup> August 1975
Blake, Michael David	27 <sup>th</sup> November 1927 – 2 <sup>nd</sup> August 1997
Buckley, Elsa	28 <sup>th</sup> December 1916 – 19 <sup>th</sup> August 2002
Dalton, George Harold	1 <sup>st</sup> March 1919 – 17 <sup>th</sup> August 1999
Beard, Paul	18 <sup>th</sup> March 1979 – 14 <sup>th</sup> August 2004
Wiggins, Mary Grace	21 <sup>st</sup> March 1923 – 9 <sup>th</sup> August 2005
Walden, Arthur William James	14 <sup>th</sup> May 1915 – 6 <sup>th</sup> August 1966
Keeble, Jessie Birtles	20 <sup>th</sup> August 1933 – 24 <sup>th</sup> August 2007
Claxton, Betty Louise	2 <sup>nd</sup> January 1920 – 15 <sup>th</sup> August 2003
Keble, Doris Ellen	28 <sup>th</sup> May 1909 – 24 <sup>th</sup> August 2008
Bridge, John Henry Ayden	4 <sup>th</sup> November 1923 – 12 <sup>th</sup> August 2010
Harrison, Sydney	3 <sup>rd</sup> December 1922 – 22 <sup>nd</sup> August 2010
Teggin, Edward 'Ted'	23 <sup>rd</sup> July 1926 – 7 <sup>th</sup> August 2012

### ***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](mailto:bereavement@stleonardslexden.org.uk)



*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.*

# REGULAR SERVICES

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>8.00am 1662 BCP Holy Communion</b> (1st & 3rd Sundays)  <b>9.45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church</b> <b>Or All Age Eucharist</b> (1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in the month)  <b>5.30pm Evensong and Sermon</b> (2nd Sunday)  <b>5.30pm Eucharist for Wholeness &amp; Healing</b> (4th Sunday)
<b>Monday</b>	8:45am Morning Prayer
<b>Tuesday</b>	8:45am Morning Prayer
<b>Wednesday</b>	10.00am Eucharist
<b>Thursday</b>	8.00am Eucharist

During August there are a number of changes to the usual pattern; please check the weekly notices or the diary in this magazine for occasional variations.