



THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST LEONARD, LEXDEN

ORDINARY PEOPLE. EXTRAORDINARY GOD.



PARISH MAGAZINE

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2025 £1.00



I Love a Winter Tree!

As I sit writing this for the November/December magazine, we are coming to the end of October, and I am looking out on a myriad of different colours in the trees surrounding me. But I know that many of these wonderful colours will be gone soon, and the wonders of the winter trees will be with us.

I love a winter tree. It shows the bare structure of the tree through which light passes throwing wonderful shadows. A winter tree gives a whole new landscape. It shows what is behind all the beautiful leaves, the strength of the tree.

And our winter services will soon be upon us. Firstly, the solemnity of All Souls when we gather to remember the lives of our family and friends who are no longer with us: Giving thanks to God for their lives and the part that they played in ours.

This is followed by Remembrance Sunday when, again we remember those who are no longer with us but, more often than not, not known by us but to whom we are truly grateful to for all the sacrifices that they made that we are able to live in a free country. A country where we are able to gather and praise our God.

We will then move into Advent with the joyful expectation of our Lord's birth, with all the wonderful services leading up to the 25th of December.

To me I can see each part of our Christian life at church being a bit like a winter tree. There is the main trunk along which we travel most of the

time. We branch off from time to time to reminisce or celebrate the different events along the way and then we journey on again.

It's easier to see our way on the winter tree when the leaves are not hiding our pathway. It all looks quite straight forward. But there are many branches that can entice us in the wrong direction and, therefore, we still have to prayerfully choose the right ones.

Perhaps we can't make all of the services, so make sure that you choose the right ones for you. Let the journey through Remembrance to Christmas make sense to you, enrich your Christian life. There will be those services that I will have to be at as a priest but there will be others that I will be able to attend to let the Spirit of God wash over me and refresh me. Let the services you attend do the same for you so that as we enter the new year you are filled with hope and love.

Let these next couple of months be a journey for you – not to the shops and back, not overspending on gifts and food which will get you into debt before the new year has started. But a journey with God and a journey that will enhance your understanding of your faith, that will strengthen your faith.

I know many people don't like the darkness that overtakes the evenings of winter, but perhaps when you can't get out into the garden you can sit in the warm with a book, one that you wouldn't find time to read in the business of Summer; again one that will help you with your faith journey.

I think that it is just a little too early to wish you a Happy Christmas, but I do wish you a wonderful Advent, full of inspiration and joy.

God Bless, Reverend Jacquie.



FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the last magazine for this year, a year that has ushered in changes, loss and a pathway to the future. When you think about it we are a quarter of the way through the 21st century! The main change this year has been that our Priest in Charge left us to seek opportunities elsewhere, we have also lost some of stalwart members of our congregation and we miss them.

This magazine includes information on forthcoming events, including planning for the Christmas Market, notification of a Craft and Wine evening plus mention of important services that will take place. At this juncture I would like to place on record our thanks to our three clergy without whom we would be struggling. In other churches where there is a vacancy the wardens would have to look for clergy to take services. We thankfully are not in that situation as our three Permission to Officiate (PTO) do more than is expected. We owe them a debt of gratitude.

Mike.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS FROM SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER MAGAZINE

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER DIARY

Saturday 1st November

8:30am Men's Breakfast

SUNDAY 2nd November 4th Sunday before Advent

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9.45am ALL AGE EUCHARIST

5:30pm Memorial Service

Tuesday 4th November

11.30am Holy Communion at Cheviot

7.30pm 'Medley' house group (Rosemary 515245)

Wednesday 5th November

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 November

8.00am Eucharist

Saturday 8th November

12:00pm Friendship Lunch

SUNDAY 9th November Remembrance Sunday

9.45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church

10:55am Act of Remembrance at War Memorial

5.30pm Evensong and Sermon

Wednesday 12th November

9:30am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee

11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

Thursday 13th November

8.00am Eucharist

Saturday 15th November

8.30am Women's Breakfast

SUNDAY 16th November 2nd Sunday before Advent

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9.45am PARISH EUCHARIST

12:00pm Baptism of Theodore and Isobella Knight

Monday 17th November

7:00pm Eucharist

7:45pm PCC Meeting

Wednesday 19th November

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 at the home of Revd Maggie

Thursday 20th November

8.00am Eucharist

SUNDAY 23rd November Christ the King

9.45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church

3:00pm SLYC in the Hall

5:30pm Eucharist for Wholeness & Healing

Monday 24th November

7:30pm Craft and Wine Evening

Wednesday 26th November

9:30am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee

11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

Thursday 27th November

8:00am Eucharist

2:00pm Pop-Up Café in Church

Friday 28th November

10:00am Hall open to receive contributions to Christmas Market

Saturday 29th November

11:00am Christmas Market

SUNDAY 30th November Advent Sunday

9.45am PARISH EUCHARIST followed by Children's Society Box Opening & Cake

5:30pm Advent Carol Service

Tuesday 2nd December

11:30am Holy Communion at Cheviot

7.30pm 'Medley' house group (Rosemary 515245)

Wednesday 3rd December

9:30am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee

11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

10:45am Holy Communion at Woodlands

7:00pm Compline and Reflection

Thursday 4th December

8.00am Eucharist

Friday 5th December

1:30pm Lexden Primary School Carol Concert

Saturday 6th December

8:30am Men's Breakfast

7:30pm Wassail in the hall

SUNDAY 7th December 2nd Sunday of Advent

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9.45am ALL AGE EUCHARIST

3:00pm Messy Nativity

Wednesday 10th December

9:30am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee

11:00am Baby & Toddler Group in the hall

7:00pm Compline and Reflection

Thursday 11th December

8.00am Eucharist

Friday 12th December

12:00pm Women's Breakfast Eucharist followed by Christmas Celebration

Saturday 13th December

12:00pm Friendship Lunch

SUNDAY 14th December 3rd Sunday of Advent

9:45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church

6.30pm Carols at the Crown

Monday 15th December

9:30am & 11:00am Home Farm School Carol Concerts

Wednesday 17th December

10.00am Eucharist followed by coffee

10:45am Carols at Woodlands

11:00am Baby & Toddler Christmas Service followed by party in the hall

7:00pm Compline and Reflection

Thursday 18th December

8:00am Eucharist

2:00pm Pop-Up Café in Church

SUNDAY 21st December 4th Sunday of Advent

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9:45am PARISH EUCHARIST

5.30pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

Tuesday 23rd December

11:30am Carol Service at Cheviot

WEDNESDAY 24th December Christmas Eve

2:30pm Crib Service

4:30pm Service of Light

6:30pm Service of Light

11:15pm Midnight Mass

THURSDAY 25th December Christmas Day

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

9.45am CHRISTMAS EUCHARIST

Sunday 28th December 1st Sunday of Christmas

9.45am PARISH EUCHARIST

12:00pm Baptism of Harry Ross

NP NICHOLAS PERCIVAL

Residential & Commercial Estate Agents
Property Management | Chartered Surveyors

Incorporating **BS BIRCHALL
STEEL**



A multi award winning practice established in 1986,
covering North Essex & South Suffolk.

Visit us at Beacon End Farmhouse, London Road, Stanway, Colchester, Essex CO3 0NQ

Call us today on **01206 563 222**
to see how we can help you

info@nicholaspercival.co.uk | www.nicholaspercival.co.uk

Crossword



MOUSE TAILS

Rupert, Molly and all the Church mice enjoyed a wonderful Harvest Festival. There was so much to look at, all the wonderful flower displays, the fields of corn on one area, the youngsters had a great time pretending to drive the tractor and they played among the toy 'farm' for ages. Some of the animals looked big enough to be real to the little mice, especially the cows and horses. Mum liked the look of the sacks too and thought they'd make excellent beds. In addition, there was a lot of corn and wheat around and the mice 'harvested' quite a bit of that as well as berries of all types. On Sunday afternoon, the humans had a Harvest supper. First of all, they listened to the choir singing some beautiful hymns and then enjoyed a luscious ham salad, followed by apple strudel. So, despite the careful cleaning up by the humans there were still some lovely titbits to scavenge.

Once the humans had gone and the Church was quiet the mouse held their own thanksgiving service, Grandad officiated as usual, and they sang their favourite hymn - 'All creatures great and small'. Afterwards they all scampered up to the Hall to have the traditional feast and what a feast it was! The Woods family had brought watercress, fresh herbs and berries and, of course, elderberry wine and acorn ale and for the first time chestnuts which everyone loved (once they'd been showed how to peel them). As usual Tommy Mouthorgan and his little band entertained them and the youngsters played lots of games. When the youngest ones started to nod off the party split up and they all went to snuggle down in their chosen nests and settled down to a good sleep.

Another Church event the mice always enjoyed was a Messy Church, this time with the story of Jonah and the Whale, and again there were lots of bits and pieces that the mice could pick up and store for use later.

The next big event was Christmas, and the youngsters were getting excited and looking forward to the biggest week of the year. The twins had already started to make secret plans about the presents they were going to make for their family members and had already started to make their cards.

Another successful Harvest said Mum as they too snuggled down to sleep.

CT



From the Church Wardens

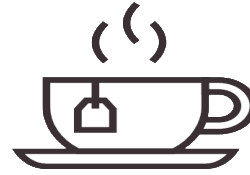
Update on Roof Repairs

We are pleased to inform you that we have received permission from the Diocese to proceed with repairs to the roof of the main body of the church. As we are now late into the year it is unlikely, but not certain, that work will not start until the new year at the earliest. The first indications that work has started will be when the Church roof has been covered in a large tarpaulin tent. We are fortunate to have the funds to cover the cost of the repairs but it will dip into our already suffering reserves so we will be looking to fund raise either by grants or donations so a fund-raising committee will be formed to help us cover the cost. More on this later.

Slope to the Church Hall

When our church Hall was opened in the late 60's the slope was not seen as a problem but as years have gone by the slope has become a problem, not just for the elderly and those with mobility problems but to young mums with pushchairs and prams. What we are intending and with the agreement of the PCC is to split the slope in two, with one half being stepped and the other side re surfaced. It is felt that if gradual steps are introduced it will make things easier for many age groups. Of course, it was not felt necessary in the 60's to step the slope as the majority who used the slope to the hall were young, hindsight is a wonderful thing. We are thankful that we have received some funding so that we can begin ground searches and as this is an access issue we should be able to secure further funding by looking at grants. We also intend to level the walkway between the Hall and the Garden of Remembrance this will enable us to complete the child play area outside of the hall for which plans already exist.

At a... “LOOSE END”?



Our new “pop-up” cafe does exactly what it says on the tin!

Between the hours of 2:00pm - 4:00pm on Thursday 25th September, we welcomed nearly 30 people to St Leonard’s to share tea/coffee, homemade cakes and, above all, friendship and fellowship.

It was wonderful to meet new people and share time together. There were so many topics of conversation - some general and some very personal. The whole atmosphere convinces me that there is such a need for companionship whatever needs people might have.

I also know that the Holy Spirit is at work in St Leonard’s - we are a welcoming, friendly church and our outreach is of vital importance for bringing people into our fellowship. Love for one another is part of God’s glory and let us never lose sight of the fact that He uses all of our gifts whether it be making a cup of tea, sharing our baking talents or having a listening ear.

So, if you are at a “loose-end” on the last Thursday of every month, come along to share in, and enjoy the company.

Revd. Maggie



SAVE THE DATE!



**CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOX
OPENING**

The Children's Society Box Opening takes place on Sunday 30th November after the 9:45am service. Cake will be provided! All monies raised will help towards the Society's work to protect hopes of children threatened by abuse, exploitation and neglect. If you would like to know about the work of the Children's Society or would like a donations box please speak to Julie, Linda or Rachel.

Wednesday, 19th November 2024

Our monthly Bible Study Group will be held at the home of Revd. Maggie.

Please contact Maggie for further details.



**At a...
"LOOSE END"?**

Just drop in to our "pop-up"
cafe on the last Thursday of
every month starting @ 2:00pm

Come and be Creative! We are holding a Craft & Wine evening on Monday 24th November starting at 7:30pm in Church. Why not come along and create some lovely Christmas crafts? Cost £10, refreshments will be provided. Sign up at the back of Church or speak to Julie or Rachel.



Carols at the Crown

Join St. Leonard's Carol Singers from 6:30pm on Sunday December 14th at The Lexden Crown in the marquee and sing along to some great traditional carols. All welcome, the bar will be open!

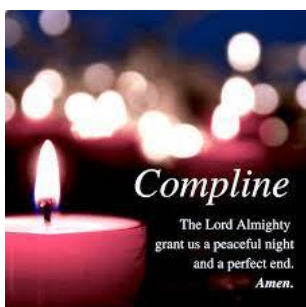


Here we come A-Wassailing

The Comrie Singers and Jubilant Brass invite you to join us for a Wassail on 6th December at 7.30pm in the Church Hall.

We will be raising funds for Lexden Church and its charities; entry on the door will be £10 for adults and free for children and anyone in full-time

education. Cash only please. The hall will be arranged with chairs around tables, and audience participation in the well-known carols will be greatly encouraged! You are welcome to bring your own refreshments; please ensure you take your rubbish away with you when you leave.



You are warmly invited to come and prepare for Christmas with a candle-lit service of Compline and simple reflection at 7.00pm every Wednesday during Advent.



CHRISTMAS MARKET

In order to make this a successful (and profitable) event we are looking for donations of the following items

- Cakes, mince pies, sausage rolls etc. for the cake stall and cafeteria
- Bottles (alcoholic and non-alcoholic) for the tombola
- Gifts and fancy goods
- Christmas tree decorations
- Jigsaws (complete)
- Board games
- Raffle prizes

Thanks in advance for your help and generosity.
Donations can be brought to the hall on Friday 28th November from 10:00am. Looking forward to seeing you on the day.

Mike mike@stleonardslexden.org.uk

Vacancy Update

During a vacancy, Churchwardens share the overall responsibility for the church and its worship activities with the Area Dean.

Following the Matt's departure in late July, the PCC had a meeting with the Bishop of Colchester, the Archdeacon of Colchester, the Area Dean and the Lay Chair to discuss the way forward.

The meeting was constructive and laid out what we had to do. The first step is to write what is called a Parish Profile which explains who we are and what we are seeking in a new Priest in Charge. Once that has been completed and accepted an advert for the vacancy can be listed. Due to holidays, it was agreed that we would submit the Parish Profile by mid-November. Once accepted by the Arch Deacon, then the vacancy advertisement would be placed.

Then it is just a matter of waiting to see who wishes to be considered. In fairness to everyone who is new to this process, parishes can be without a Priest in Charge for a year or more. We will keep you up to date with progress during future magazines.

Nick and Mike

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

FUNERALS

4th September

Major John Richard Nixon

9th October

Ellen Whalley

'Rest in peace and rise in glory.'

BAPTISMS

7th September

Wai Hei Pang

28th September

Elsie Grace Whiteman

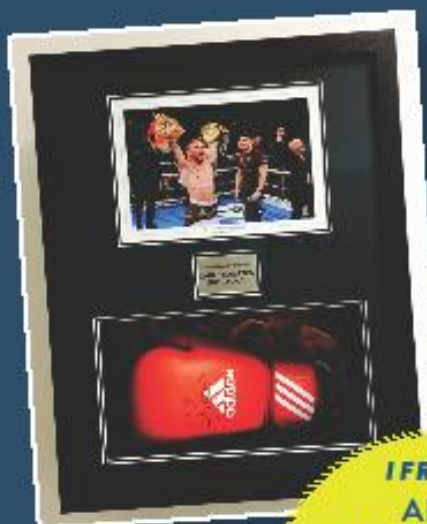


'One Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all.'

•Cards•
•Framing•
•Gallery•

SEBASTIAN WARNER *Framing*

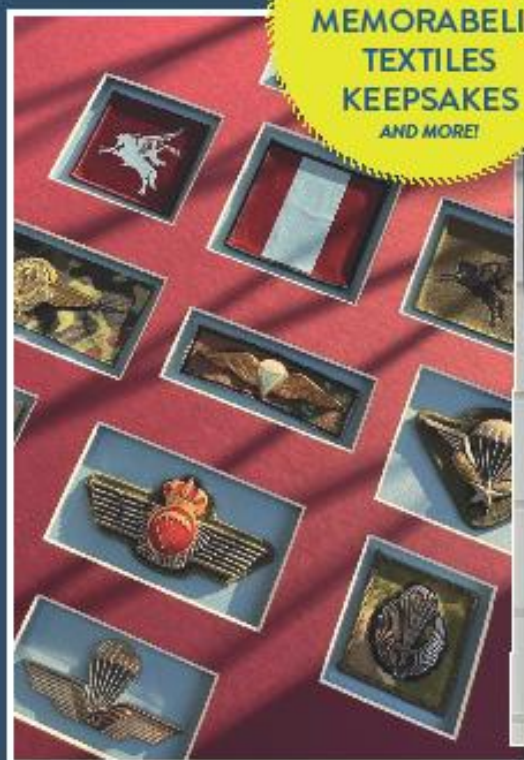
UNIT 8, KINGSFORD BUSINESS CENTRE, LAYER RD,
COLCHESTER, ESSEX, CO2 0HT



I FRAME
ART
PHOTOGRAPHS
MEMORABELIA
TEXTILES
KEEPSAKES
AND MORE!

Please visit my
website for
opening hours

Free parking



Workshop: 01206 738700 | **Mob:** 07787503397

Email: sebastianwarnerframing@yahoo.com

www.sebastianwarnerframing.co.uk

Fundraising

Every church needs to raise funds to ensure that it can meet what it wishes to do. Since COVID we have needed to draw on our reserves just to balance the books; this not sustainable and needs to be addressed. To that end the wardens intend to set-up two fund raising committees, one to raise money for the roof and slope and another to raise funds to meet our day-to-day needs.

It is to be hoped that once we appoint a new Priest in Charge who will get out into the community we may see an increase in our electoral roll and with it an increase in monthly income. Our Electoral roll has dropped and with it our income, not that the two are directly linked but people on the roll do sign up to help us financially.

Anyone who would like to help on a committee to help raise funds (and it doesn't mean they have to run events), would be welcome. Ideas people giving new perspectives would be welcome. If interested, please contact Mike Firth via the office. We have already had some people express an interest in getting involved and will call a meeting for both committees in the near future.



Craft and wine evening
Come and be creative!

Monday 24th November
7:30pm-9:30pm (arrive at 7)

Booking via Rachel/Julie or
admin@stleonardslexden.org.uk
Free refreshments

£10

Harvest 2025

At the beginning of October, we held our Harvest Festival service which was well attended. It also saw the church and its congregation provide 135kg of goods to the food bank.

We must thank Peter Hearsum and his team for providing a fantastic display of flowers, pictures of which are displayed with this article. The theme was linked to the popular hymns “We Plough the Fields and Scatter” and “Let us with a Gladsome Mind”.

During the afternoon we held a service of Songs of Praise where members of the congregation selected their favourite hymns and explained why they were special to them.

Following the service the ladies of the church provided a harvest supper. It was the first time since before COVID that this had been held. It was well received and raised £300 towards church funds.





Harvest Flowers

Our Harvest displays this year were based on lines from two hymns, “We Plough the Fields and Scatter” and “Let us with a Gladsome Mind”.



We plough the fields and scatter the good seed on the land.



He the golden-tressed sun caused all day his course to run.



By him the birds are fed.



The winds and waves obey him.



Decorative arrangements.





**All good gifts around us are
sent from heaven above,**

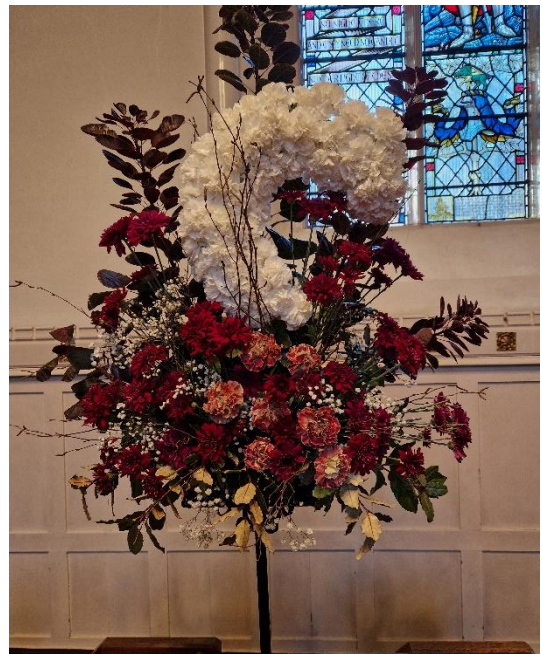
**then thank the Lord for all
his love.**



He gives our daily bread.



And the horned moon at night.



‘mid her spangled sisters bright.



All things living he doth feed.

In addition to the themed arrangements we were treated to some extra displays around the Church, including one from the Baby & Toddler group in the extension.





Thank you so much to Peter and his team



St Leonard's, Lexden
for supporting Colchester Foodbank.

**We are extremely grateful for your
amazing and generous
Harvest 2024 donation
Of 135 kgs.**

This will make a **BIG difference to
local individuals, children and
families who face food and financial
crisis at this time and will be of great
help in the forthcoming months.**

**Colchester Foodbank is part of the Trussell
Trust's UK wide foodbank network.**

WORLD'S BIGGEST
COFFEE
MORNING

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT

Thank you so much to my team of helpers and to everyone who attended our recent coffee morning. It was lovely to see so many people in Church supporting a wonderful cause. The running total is an incredible £757.50 from cash and on-line donations. **Julie.**





What's on for Children and Families in November and December

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 is 17th December. Just turn up!

2 nd November All Age Service	
9 th November Junior Church (followed by the Remembrance Sunday act of worship in the churchyard)	Living Tradition Paul tells the disciples that they must hold on to the traditions that have already been established.
16 th November	
23 rd November Junior Church Plus SLYC youth group in the hall 3pm	Christmas Card making for our friends at home
29 th November 11am - 2pm Christmas Market in the hall	Children's corner and a visit from Father Christmas!
30 th November	
7 th December All Age Worship in church Plus Messy Church - MESSY NATIVITY In the church 3pm	1 st Sunday of Advent 
14 th December Junior Church	Come Jesus and fill us with Joy Joy is something we can expect and anticipate but is always with us
21 st December	
24 th December CRIB SERVICE 2.30pm (no Junior Church)	Children are welcome to come dressed as an angel, shepherd or a king
25 th December Christmas Day Service (no Junior Church)	
28 th December Junior Church Christmas break	

MESSY CHURCH NEWS

Our Messy Church team have been very busy this autumn and we have held two Messy Churches, one in September and one in October.



Our September focus was **Messy Senses** and the children had an exciting time finding out how our senses help us to learn more about our wonderful world.

We guessed the flavour and colour of jelly babies and sniffed the hidden contents of paper cups.



We used our hands to feel the objects inside the socks and guessed what was happening in the sound game.

We made beautiful mirrors framed with all the different autumn leaves found in the churchyard.

Our Bible story was Blind Bartimaeus, and we heard how being brave enough to speak out and having trust and faith in Jesus led to Bartimaeus having his sight restored. Not only could he now physically see, but he understood that a new life awaited him and he was filled with joy as he followed Jesus.



In October we had a whale of a time exploring the story of **Jonah and the Whale!**

We made our own boats to keep Jonah safe as he sailed across the water tray. We caught him safely in our paper cup game as he shot out of the whale's mouth.



We made him appear and disappear magically using clothes pegs,



and cheered the whale up by painting him in bright colours.

The whole story was told expertly through a cucumber, bread and jelly baby food activity. And last of all we drew ourselves in the belly of the whale



and composed sorry prayers with a night light illuminating the darkness, showing that God is with us always even when things go wrong.

So now we are thinking ahead to our December Messy Nativity. The poster is made and booking is open if you and your children are able to join us. It will be another amazing opportunity for children and their families to worship in an informal way at St Leonard's.

The Messy Church Team



A Message of Thanks

Dear People of St Leonard's,

A note to thank you sincerely for the wonderful send-off you gave us, for your generous gifts and your much appreciated support as our new ministry begins in Clacton-on-Sea and Jaywick.

Thank you also for the correspondence many people have sent us - it means a great deal.

We give thanks for all we shared together and will continue to pray for the good of the Parish of Lexden and its people.

Yours in Christ,

Matt, Sian, Martha + Jim

Blessing of the Gospel

As a parting gift, Matt kindly gave the Church a new copy of the Gospel used in our weekly services to replace the existing copy which had become a little battered from use.

At our service on 27th July this was blessed by Jacquie.





At a...

**"LOOSE
END?"**

Just drop in to
our "pop-up" cafe
on the

**last Thursday of
every month**

@ 2:00pm

Further details from:

maggiew234@gmail.com

or

admin@stleonardslexden.org.uk

MESSY NATIVITY!

Sunday 7th December at 3pm
St Leonard's Church Lexden

Christmas crafts
Activities
Songs and Food



Children must be accompanied by an adult.
Please email to let us know if you are coming:
juniorchurch@stleonardslexden.org.uk



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 2nd
Saturday from **September to**
March at 12pm

Please book by emailing
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.

Women's Breakfast Update

The Women's Breakfast group continue to meet on the third Saturday of every month (except August and December), and we sit down to freshly baked pastries, fresh fruit, yogurt and cereals, not forgetting cafetieres of coffee and pots of tea. Breakfast lasts for about an hour and takes different formats - sometimes we will discuss a specific subject, share personal stories, listen to a speaker, or just chat to one another. Clearing and washing up is also very sociable!



At our September meeting Julie and Liz very kindly gave us a tutorial on flower arranging and in November Sam Perry is joining us to tell us about the work he does with Hunnaballs.

Our December meeting takes the form of a Christmas lunch; this year we are meeting on Friday 12th December; we will start with a Eucharist in Church at 12:00pm then make our way up to the Lexden Crown for lunch. If you would like to join us please sign-up on the sheet at the back of Church or speak to Maggie or Esther.

There is no charge and any donations we receive are given to charity; in particular, Crossroads which is a local charity supporting those who are carers for family members. The group is very friendly and relaxed, and we have welcomed many new people.

What's our aim? To build up the fellowship of the church, to be there for one another and to enjoy each other's company. Our next meeting is on Saturday, November 15th at 8:30 a.m. so if you have nothing else planned come and join us - you will be so very welcome.

Women's Breakfast



3rd Saturday of the month in Church.
All Welcome, we look forward to seeing you there...
If you have any questions please contact
maggie@stleonardslexden.org.uk



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

What is God calling you to?



You are invited to a morning to hear, discuss, explore and ponder what God is calling you to. Maybe you are feeling a nudge, a yearning or a prompt? And are wondering 'Could I do that?'

This in-person event is a fantastic opportunity to connect with like-minded individuals and discover more about how your unique gifts and talents can be used in God's service. Whether you are considering ordained ministry or simply curious about the many lay vocational paths, this event is for you. Come ready to engage in discussions, workshops, and reflection.

Saturday 8th November 2025, 9.30am – 2pm. Venue: Marks Tey Church Hall, Church Lane, Marks Tey, Colchester CO6 1LW. There is parking in the church car park at the rear.

Coffee will be available from 9.00am ready for a prompt 9.30am start.

Book your free place:

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=tLacKbPGS0CZl1Unt1qNzFj78w1Ar61LtjsUhEUiPI9UQ0FXU1JOVIJVSDg5MIE3UIRURVhCUVdENS4u&route=shorturl>

Talking Turkeys!

Be nice to yu turkeys dis Christmas
Cos' turkeys just wanna hav fun
Turkeys are cool, turkeys are wicked
An every turkey has a Mum.
Be nice to yu turkeys dis Christmas,
Don't eat it, keep it alive,
It could be yu mate, an not on your plate
Say, Yo! Turkey I'm on your side.



I got lots of friends who are turkeys
An all of dem fear Christmas time,
Dey wanna enjoy it, dey say humans destroyed it
An humans are out of dere mind,
Yeah, I got lots of friends who are turkeys
Dey all hav a right to a life,
Not to be caged up an genetically made up
By any farmer an his wife.

Turkeys just wanna play reggae
Turkeys just wanna hip-hop
Can yu imagine a nice young turkey saying,
"I cannot wait for de chop",
Turkeys like getting presents, dey wanna watch Christmas TV,
Turkeys hav brains an turkeys feel pain
In many ways like yu an me.

I once knew a turkey called..... Turkey
He said "Benji explain to me please,
Who put de turkey in Christmas
An what happens to Christmas trees?",
I said "I am not too sure Turkey
But it's nothing to do wid Christ Mass
Humans get greedy an waste more dan need be
An business men mek loadsa cash'.

Be nice to yu turkey dis Christmas
Invite dem indoors fe sum greens
Let dem eat cake an let dem partake
In a plate of organic grown beans,
Be nice to yu turkey dis christmas
An spare dem de cut of de knife,
Join Turkeys United an dey'll be delighted
An yu will mek new friends 'FOR LIFE'.

Benjamin Zephaniah

Visit us online at www.johnfowlers.co.uk
info@johnfowlers.co.uk



JOHN FOWLERS

SOLICITORS

**Your Local Colchester
Solicitor**



01206 576151 | Town Hall Chambers, St Runwald Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1DS

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

MAGAZINE DEADLINE

Final day for items for the JANUARY-FEBRUARY edition:

SUNDAY 7TH DECEMBER

Please submit items to the Editor
email: 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.



From the Archives

During the eighteenth-century Lexden had been growing, and thanks to the work of various clerics the congregation had grown to an extent that the old Middle Age Church was too small. In theory it could have been enlarged and the ground stabilised but as detailed in an earlier archive, the Revd Preston decided that he needed a new church. Of course, this could not happen without the agreement of the Lord of the Manor.

Finance was already in place before the decision to demolish and rebuild had been taken. The new St Leonards was constructed very quickly and according to the plaque on the rear wall could hold 600 people. It would have been tight, but it must be remembered that in those days people were smaller in stature and much thinner. Betty Nichols, one time secretary to the PCC, in a piece written in 1991 stated that the 1820 church was built in the during the religious revival period and was built to what the Victorians would later call 'English Middle Pointed Gothic'.

From the outset there were problems with the church, the main problem being the shallowness of the chancel. In his essay on Essex Gothic Architecture. J.J. Stanton described St Leonard's as a Brick Box disguised as something medieval. Others described it as being jerry built, something we are now having to look at. In the late nineteenth century, the Church was described as having been built in the early years of the century, looked relatively good on the outside but internally was not really fit for purpose.

To this end, the then Rector and the Churchwardens, in conjunction with the Lord of the Manor, requested a faculty to enlarge the church from the Diocesan Bishop of St Albans in 1892, stating that 'it is ill adapted for public worship, large parts of the congregation cannot kneel or sit comfortably and the shallow Chancel is crowded with seats'. Reports also state that there was no room for a pipe organ so it must be assumed that music was provided by a harmonium. From the records it is confirmed that in 1890 seats were installed in the gallery as it had not been used by musicians for some time.

Plans for the extension were submitted along with the faculty, the architect was J.C.Traylon of Stamford whose design we see today was to transform the church. According to the records, the building of the new Chancel was not to interfere with any pews or vaults. It would be necessary a number of Gravestones and tablets; they were to be placed as near as possible to their original position once agreement had been reached with the family members. The remains of those people still lie beneath the Chancel. Their names are long forgotten but for the record they are Phillip Bailey d1828, Thomas Lambel d1829, Harriot Hobbs d1851, William Frost d1856, Henry Taylor d1873, William Home d 859, Joseph Taylor d1873, Edward Round d1877 and a tablet to the memory of Mr Hume d1852.

Edward Round is an interesting name as from previous research it was a member of the Round family who gave money to build the new St Leonards in 1820, were they related? Conjecture. Yet if they were it is somehow fitting.

My thanks must go to Betty Nichols who carefully maintained and copied original documents so this archive could be revealed.

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

NOVEMBER

Crook, Mills William	15th February 1918 - 14th November 1998
Frost, Alan John True	22nd July 1927 - 20th November 1996
Cooke, Nancy Irene	18th January 1908 - 13th November 2003
Hunt, Derrick Edward	24th November 1930 - 15th November 1995
Shepherd, Raymond Hubert	12th May 1926 - 25th November 1989
Ellis, Jennifer Mary	14th July 1935 - 24th November 2004
Bedford, Janet Iris	1st January 1939 - 28th November 2004
Gilham, Gwendoline	19th October 1908 - 7th November 1995
Gilham, Albert Henry	17th July 1917 - 18th November 2005
Nicholls, Betty	11th September 1927 - 25th November 2005
Carter, Alfred Richard (Dick)	9th April 1927 - 5th November 2006
Large, Charles Arthur	18th January 1918 - 19th November 1986
Jarvis, Robin Lloyd	27th August 1941 - 4th November 2007
Kite, Graham John	17th September 1943 - 20th November 2007
Gosling, Elsie Leonora	12th January 1926 – 18th November 2008
Leggett, Jean Mary Helen	4th May 1931 – 2nd November 2009
Marchington, Phyllis May	11th November 1922 – 14th November 2010
Dean, Christine Mary	15th September 1921 – 29th November 2010
Claydon, Margaret Joan	4th November 1912 – 4th November 2013
Pike, Rosemary Ann	20th April 1941 – 22nd November 2012
Calvert, Vera	29th March 1914 – 26th November 2012
Hudson, Jean	18th May 1946 – 4th November 2017
Hoult, Joan Holly	23rd January 1918 – 22nd November 1991
Hallett, John Edward George	11th July 1937 – 8th November 2014
Loxley, Jean	10th January 1928 – 28th November 2019
Benko, Borbola (Bori)	12th January 1997 – 21st November 2021

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

DECEMBER

Long, Ernest Walter	6 th June 1894 – 12 th December 1961
Scrimgeour, David Iain Cameron	8 th June 1969 – 1 st December 1989
Birbeck, Florence	13 th October 1934 – 20 th December 1996
Farren, Frank William Campbell	9 th November 1911 – 30 th December 1999
Beck, Margaret Neal	29 th December 1921 – 1 st December 2003
Marshall, Laurence Geoffrey Walrond	8 th August 1913 – 14 th December 2001
Partner, George Cecil	23 rd August 1913 – 14 th December 2004
Drake, Kenneth	18 th March 1922 – 20 th December 2005
Baker, Jack	8 th July 1905 – 12 th December 1997
Breens, Anne	25 th March 1912 – 25 th December 2009
Burrage, Eric David	15 th April 1917 – 10 th December 2014
Reed, Richard 'Ba'	29 th August 1940 – 17 th December 2015
Newton, Keith Henry	8 th June 1929 – 26 th December 2020



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

Sunday	8.00am 1662 BCP Holy Communion (1st & 3rd Sundays) 9.45am PARISH EUCHARIST with Junior Church on 2 nd & 4 th Sundays Or All Age Eucharist (1 st Sunday of 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

CHRISTMAS 2025

SUNDAY 30th NOVEMBER

5:30pm Advent Carol Service

SUNDAY 7th DECEMBER

3.00pm Messy NATIVITY

Mess! Fun! Food! FREE Kids crafts, activities, games, stories, & songs! Children must be accompanied by an adult. This event is free, please email to let us know you're coming: juniorchurch@stleonardslexden.org.uk



SUNDAY 14th DECEMBER

6:30pm Carols at the Crown

SUNDAY 21st DECEMBER

5:30pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

- a service of traditional carols and readings

WEDNESDAY 24th DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS EVE

2:30pm Crib Service – especially for small children

(Children are invited to come dressed as shepherds or angels)

4:30pm* The Service of Light - a candlelit carol service for all ages

6:30pm* The Service of Light - a candlelit carol service for all ages

***These two services are identical**

11:15pm Midnight Mass, with the blessing of the crib

THURSDAY 25th DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS DAY

8:00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

9:45am Christmas Eucharist

